

INSIDE: GARDENS WITH SCIENCE • AT YOUR SERVICE • ON THE TRAIL OF FAMILY STORIES



A centrepiece of Kitchener's new-look "Speaker's Corner" is this anamorphic artwork designed by Guelph physicist Jim Hunt. PHOTO BY JIM HUNT

Teasing to the Eye

U of G physics prof designs eye-catcher for Kitchener square

BY ANDREW VOWLES

IT'S A PIECE OF PUBLIC ART worth reflecting on. Pedestrians visiting a new-look square in downtown Kitchener are enjoying the mirror trick in an installation using the handiwork of retired U of G physics professor Jim Hunt.

Visit "Speaker's Corner" at King and Benton streets and you can't miss the eight-foot-high stainless-steel cylinder installed during last year's renovations to this public square. Stand outside a grid of porcelain tiles at its base, gaze at the pillar and, voila, an amorphous dreamscape printed on those tiles turns into a clear photographic image in the column's mirrored sides.

Two photographic images, in fact — both depicting the surrounding streetscape in photos taken before the area's renovation.

"The memory of the old is apparent in the new," says Hunt, whose fascination with Renaissance-era anamorphic art underpins the new Kitchener installation by Canadian artist Allan MacKay.

The installation, including two new granite-

clad walls with etched images and phrases evoking the public voice, was dedicated during a ceremony in early December.

Completion of the redesigned "Speaker's Corner" marked the end of the first phase of the area's redevelopment, expected to be completed in 2011.

For Hunt, the crucial moment occurred a few days earlier, when workers began laying the tile around the pillar. That's when he saw that his earlier labours had worked out and that the deliberately blurred image in the tiles was reflected crisply in the cylindrical mirror.

Anamorphic art uses distorted images that appear normal only when viewed from the correct angle or with the help of curved mirrors. The form gained popularity as both art and entertainment during the 16th century.

Although Hunt had first created pieces for display here on campus a decade ago, he hadn't seen his retirement hobby turned into a permanent public art installation off campus. No wonder he was a bit anxious last month.

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Sustainability Task Force Established

Group to pursue ways to reduce U of G's ecological footprint

BY LORI BONA HUNT

PRESIDENT ALASTAIR SUMMERLEE has established a task force to review, co-ordinate and make recommendations for campus initiatives that promote sustainability, both at the University and in the greater local and global communities.

"As an academic and research leader in a multitude of areas that contribute to environmental sustainability, Guelph recognizes the importance of placing fewer demands on the planet," says Summerlee. "We must also take a leadership role in helping others find ways to generate less waste and use less energy, water and other resources."

Members of the University community are already individually and collectively making changes, large and small, to reduce the size of U of G's ecological footprint, he says.

"This task force will help focus and streamline those efforts, as well as propose new initiatives to ensure that every aspect of our research and teaching is in line with our commitment to contributing to a sustainable future."

The Presidential Task Force on Sustainability will have representation from the senior administration, faculty, students and staff, with Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research), serving as chair. The committee will report directly to the president.

Hall says the group will take a comprehensive view of sustainability, focusing on the basic principles: the environment, communities and the economy. It will look at issues related

to carbon footprint, water use, sustainable practices in teaching and academic programs, and future initiatives that could also benefit other communities.

"Sustainability is one of U of G's strategic areas," says Hall, a civil engineer who, prior to joining U of G last January, directed the Centre for Water and the Environment at Queen's University and started a humanitarian engineering program.

"Fundamentally, it's a way of thinking and living. It involves making conscious decisions about how our actions — how and what we consume, construct and operate — impact the environment, our community and the people around us."

Among other things, the task force will co-ordinate current sustainability initiatives; promote new areas, including curriculum, where the University should take a leadership role; propose targets for energy saving and carbon reduction; and develop partnerships with organizations, universities and others to promote environmental sustainability.

The group will also create an annual campus competition to promote sustainable development initiatives aimed at changing institutional practices.

Summerlee says the task force's actions and recommendations will be important for maintaining U of G's leadership position in environmental sustainability.

The task force has been asked to present an interim progress report to the president this summer.

CFI Invests \$1M at U of G

Eight projects receive support from Leaders Opportunity Fund

BY LORI BONA HUNT

THE CANADA FOUNDATION for Innovation (CFI) invested more than \$1 million in research at U of G in December. In total, the CFI announced \$59 million in support for 262 projects at 40 Canadian institutions.

The eight Guelph projects receiving support range from advancing understanding about cancer to preventing violence against women.

"At U of G, our focus is on finding real solutions to real-life issues," says Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research). "This CFI support will provide the equipment and technology that are vital to our researchers' ability to leverage their work into new knowledge and applications. It will also help train the next generation of innovators, attract new leading researchers and enrich the possibilities already available at Guelph."

The U of G projects are being supported

by the CFI's Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF), which was created to allow Canadian universities to attract and retain leading faculty and researchers.

"I'm thrilled," says psychology professor Paula Barata, who received \$85,460 to create a social psychology research facility where she'll study the psychosocial factors that inhibit health promotion behaviour. "Obviously this will help me follow through with my research program."

Barata will use both qualitative and quantitative methods to better understand women's perspectives on programs designed to prevent violence against women and cervical cancer, specifically HPV testing, self-sampling and the HPV vaccine. The goal is to develop and evaluate intervention strategies to increase participation in cervical cancer prevention programs and help prevent violence against women.

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Gardens With Science

New programs for urban growers link U of G, Royal Botanical Gardens

BY TERESA PITMAN

STARTING NEXT FALL, OAC's Department of Plant Agriculture and the Office of Open Learning (OOL) will offer two new online certificate programs for people interested in sustainable urban agriculture and horticulture. Both certificates were developed in partnership with Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) and will share the expertise of U of G faculty and RBG professionals.

"We recognized the current interest in sustainable agriculture and horticulture and decided we could address the gap in educational opportunities through a collaborative partnership with the Department of Plant Agriculture and RBG," says OOL associate director Vicki Smith.

Stephen Fleischauer, OOL manager of program development, adds that offering these programs online means they're available to people anywhere in the world. "Anyone who has a computer and is hooked up to the web is ready to go."

Each certificate program consists of four core courses and one elective course chosen from three options. The courses will be scheduled so that a student can complete the certificate requirement in one year. Each course can take up to 40 students.

The programs are designed to address a growing need, says Prof. Rene Van Acker, OAC's associate dean (external relations).

"Canada's food culture contin-

ues to evolve, with many people in urban areas now wanting to learn more about how food is grown and even how to grow it themselves," he says. "The new certificate programs will give these people the opportunity to work with recognized experts in agriculture and horticulture to develop their skills and knowledge."

It's the partnership between RBG and U of G that adds depth and strength to the program, says David Galbraith, head of the Science Group at RBG. In 2006, the two organizations signed a formal memo of understanding to work together.

"These two courses are the most recent example, but they're also one of the most exciting," says Galbraith. "They make use of the potential and strengths of both organizations."

He adds that sustainability is a priority focus for RBG, so the certificate courses are a natural fit.

"This program gives us an opportunity to reach out to post-secondary students as well as landscaping professionals, gardeners and others in a way we haven't for many years. What we've learned through our experience in promoting conservation is that it's all about people and making sure they understand the importance of sustainability. What people do in practical terms to manage their own gardens has a strong impact on the natural systems in the environment."

RBG has seen this impact in its own backyard, he says. The Cootes Paradise wetland owned by RBG has

frequently had problems because of runoff containing fertilizer or pesticides from home gardens. When a nearby pesticide factory had a fire, the chemicals that ended up in the wetland caused what Galbraith, a Guelph graduate who trained as a wildlife biologist, describes as "a tragedy" for the animals and plants living there.

"We want to help people achieve sustainability for the sake of their own health and also for the health of the animals and plants that share our community."

Pat Shaver, OOL manager of program development, is optimistic that classes will fill to capacity because the topics have such widespread appeal. Many prospective students will be interested in learning how to grow food in an urban environment or to create naturalized landscapes, she says.

"You can use your front yard, your side yard, maybe an abandoned lot down the road."

Smith adds that the new certificate programs will also build on what OOL already offers.

"One of our criteria in deciding what courses to offer is whether they extend the teaching and research expertise at the University of Guelph. Between the Ontario Agricultural College and RBG, we have a powerful combination of knowledge and expertise in sustainable urban agriculture and horticulture."

For more information about the programs, visit www.urbanhort.ca.

CFI Supports Eight Projects

Continued from page 1

Prof. Frederic Labege, Integrative Biology, will use his \$124,571 grant to create an integrative neurophysiology laboratory where he will study the physiology and anatomy of the central nervous system of selected amphibian species.

"My work in Guelph so far has consisted mostly of behavioural investigations," he says. "This award will enable expansion to the study of the physiology of the nervous system. It will modernize our methods and enable an integrative approach to the study of the brain."

His long-term goal is to describe the essential features of the brain that are involved in the control of behaviour in vertebrates.

Pathobiology professor Geoff Wood plans to buy cutting-edge tools to study genes involved in cancer across multiple species with his

\$117,954 award. He hopes to ultimately discover genes and signalling pathways that are important for cancer development and progression.

"This equipment will be vital for conducting the kind of research that takes full advantage of the great sample resources in our department," says Wood. He adds that it will have a big impact on the type of sample analysis he conducts in the future.

"Analyzing hundreds of tissue samples at once or many dozens of proteins in one drop of serum will allow for more robust data, as well as save time and reagents."

Other LOF projects and the lead researchers are:

- Prof. Cortland Griswold, Integrative Biology, \$126,866 for a high-performance computer facility to support research on multivariate trait variation evolution.

- Prof. Claire Jardine, Pathobiology, \$87,609 to support ecological studies of zoonotic diseases in wildlife reservoirs.

- Prof. Dmitriy Soldatov, Chemistry, \$165,694 for a single-crystal X-ray diffractometer that will enable structural characterization of crystalline samples down to atomic resolution.

- Prof. Merritt Turetsky, Integrative Biology, \$176,453 for an ecosystem analysis laboratory to evaluate the effects of climate change and disturbances on boreal ecosystems.

- Prof. Sarah Wootton, Pathobiology, \$120,711 for infrastructure to study oncogenic betaretroviruses to further understand how similar malignancies develop in humans and animals.

at GUELPH

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HTM CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH GET TOP RANKING

A new international study ranks the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) as the top hospitality and tourism program in Canada when it comes to research contributions. Conducted by the University of Central Florida, the study was published in the November issue of the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research*. It ranked the top 100 academic institutions based on their contributions to 11 top hospitality and tourism journals between 2002 and 2006. HTM was the leading Canadian university and placed 21st overall.

TOWN HALL TO FOCUS ON SECONDARY AREAS OF STUDY

The Secondary Areas of Study Committee will host its second town hall meeting Jan. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre. The working group is gathering information on how to best meet the academic goals of all secondary areas of study, including minors, areas of emphasis and certificates. The committee has met with deans' councils, department curriculum committees, program counsellors, student government leaders and registrar staff. It will also consult with alumni.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

Prof. Hussein Abdullah, a faculty member in the School of Engineering since 2000, has been appointed director of the school effective Jan. 1. He succeeds retiring director Prof. John Gruzleski. Abdullah, who has been associate director for graduate studies in the school since 2008, received his M.Sc. in robotics in 1988 and his PhD in mechatronics, manufacturing and automation in 1992, both from the University of Glasgow.

INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR BDO

Three-time U of G chemistry graduate Martin Bosch has been named interim director of the Business Development Office as a search continues for a new director. His appointment began Jan. 1. An entrepreneur and business leader in the Guelph area for 25 years, Bosch is also a longtime U of G volunteer.

STUDENT HOUSING RECRUITS RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF

Student Housing Services is currently recruiting residence life staff for 2010/2011. Openings are available for residence assistants, program facilitators, academic cluster leaders and academic programmers. Information sessions will be held Jan. 13 in the Eccles Centre and Jan. 14 in the Town Hall, both at 10:15 p.m. Application deadline is Jan. 18. Application forms can be found online at www.housing.uoguelph.ca.

A PLACE TO LEARN

The learning and development program in Human Resources offers a wide range of learning opportunities for U of G faculty and staff this winter. For information and to register, visit www.uoguelph.ca/learningmatters/index.php.

Annual Environmental Sciences Symposium to Explore Connections

Event to draw students, academics, industry professionals, community members

FINDING CONNECTIONS among business, economics and the environment is the goal of the 16th annual Environmental Sciences Symposium Jan. 16 at U of G.

"EnviroNomics: Problem or Solution?" is the theme of this year's lectures, workshops and displays, with participants exploring the pros and cons of striving for sustainable development in the 21st century. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in Rozanski Hall.

Hosted by environmental sciences students, the daylong annual symposium brings students, academics, industry professionals and community members together to explore and debate topical environmental issues.

Highlights of this year's event include a live video conference with

Peter Robinson, CEO of the David Suzuki Foundation. Robinson has also served as CEO of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission and Mountain Equipment Co-op, the country's largest outdoor equipment retailer. In addition, he was appointed to the B.C. Climate Action Team and the Ontario Premier's Climate Change Advisory Panel.

Concurrent lectures and panel sessions start at 10:40 a.m. and continue throughout the day, focusing on three themes: "Foundations of Business and Economic Sustainability," "Successful Green Businesses: Global to Local Perspectives" and "Innovations and Alternatives to Capitalism." These sessions will feature academics who are conducting research related to environmental

sustainability, businesses known for their sustainable practices and marketing, and the perspectives of social entrepreneurs, First Nations people and the fair-trade movement.

The day will conclude with a talk by Frank de Jong, who headed the Ontario Green Party for 16 years. An elementary school teacher who hails from Wellington County, he is known for his human rights and environmental advocacy efforts.

Advance tickets are \$12 for university and high school students and \$15 for the general public and are available online, at the Information Desk in the University Centre or at various Guelph businesses. Tickets at the door will be \$17 and \$20.

More information about the symposium is available at www.uoguelph.ca/~envsymp.

United Way Campaign Goes Way Over the Top

\$520,000 total takes campus campaign well above 2009 goal

UOF G'S UNITED WAY campaign closed its books at the end of December with a final total of \$520,000, well above the half-million-dollar goal. The University campaign helped push the United Way of Guelph and Wellington to a total of \$2.66 million, \$10,000 over the county-wide goal announced in September.

President Alastair Summerlee, who served as chair of the Guelph and Wellington campaign, thanks not only the University community but also everyone who contributed through their workplace or as an individual donor.



dividual donor.

"Every workplace that contributes, every individual donation, no matter the amount raised, makes a

significant difference in our community," he says. "The United Way couldn't support the 80 programs it does without each and every donor and volunteer."

Summerlee recently announced that Guelph consultant and U of G graduate Marva Wisdom will step in as the United Way of Guelph and Wellington campaign chair for 2010.

Wisdom earned a master's degree in leadership studies from U of G in 2007. She is vice-chair of the Canadian Centre for Diversity and the principal of Wisdom Consulting.

Email 'Governor' Aims to Overrule Spammers

Compromised email accounts damage U of G's Internet reputation

UOF G CONTINUES to experience compromised email accounts because of phishing attacks, says chief information officer Mike Ridley.

"Tens or even hundreds of thousands of outgoing spam email messages can be generated by a compromised account before we're able to lock it," he says. "This has resulted in other email systems such as Hotmail refusing to receive any email originating from the uoguelph.ca domain — a situation that limits our ability to communicate with many people associated with the University."

The IT security group of the CIO

recommended that Computing and Communications Services (CCS) develop a "throttling" or "governor" in Guelph's email system to limit the number of messages an account can generate, says Ridley.

"This spam control utility has now been implemented after thorough testing. It will restrict spammers' ability to steal our computing resources and will prevent damage to our Internet reputation. University accounts generating excessive email will be blocked from further sending until the issue is resolved."

The limit has initially been set at 10,000 outgoing messages in a 24-hour period and will be evaluated

as CCS gains more experience with the tool, he says.

"Care has also been taken to profile legitimate email use, so no adverse effects are expected. In addition, accounts and users with exceptional requirements can be easily accommodated."

Ridley reminds the U of G community that CCS never requests that user names and passwords be sent through email. In addition, users should be careful when following http links in unsolicited emails.

He notes that of the eight million emails that arrive at U of G each day, 97 per cent of them are spam that is blocked by CCS.

people

ARTIST EXHIBITS WORKS

"Nowhere if not here," a survey exhibition of works by Prof. Will Gorlitz, Fine Art and Music, will run at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art in Toronto Feb. 4 to March 28. The opening reception is Feb. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. On Feb. 13, an exhibition of his new paintings will open at the Toronto gallery Birch Libralato. In November, Gorlitz exhibited paintings at the Michael Gibson Gallery in London and gave an illustrated talk at the University of Western Ontario.

CARRYING THE TORCH

Frank Ridder, a classroom media technician in Teaching Support Services, was among the people chosen to carry the Olympic torch through Guelph Dec. 28.

The following appointments were announced recently at U of G:

- Sheng Chang, associate professor, School of Engineering
- Fantahun Defersha, assistant professor, School of Engineering
- Cort Egan, senior communications officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Mary Haggarty, admission counsellor, Registrar Services
- James Irving, assistant professor, School of Engineering
- Pavlina Kouyova, senior accountant, Research Financial Services
- Ted Leis, second-class stationary shift engineer, Physical Resources
- Kate Morrice, pharmacy technician, OVC Health Sciences Centre
- Trevor Pemberton, courseware administrator, Teaching Support Services
- Justin Robson, livestock agricultural assistant, Elora Dairy Research Centre
- Mark Stam, livestock agricultural assistant, Arkell Swine Research Station
- Carolyn Yule, assistant professor, Sociology and Anthropology.

IN MEMORIAM

SABINE GREBE

Prof. Sabine Grebe, a faculty member in the School of Languages and Literatures since 2005, died Dec. 13. An internationally recognized scholar of Latin literature and Roman history, she earned her PhD at the University of Heidelberg and taught at Heidelberg, Cambridge, Colgate and Wayne State universities before coming to Guelph. She was a member of the U of G Symphonic Choir. Prof. Grebe is survived by her husband, William Conklin; and her mother, brother and two nephews, all of Germany. A tree will be planted in her memory in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest in September.

LLOYD GIMMER

Retiree Lloyd Gimmer, a security guard on campus from 1974 to 1995, died Dec. 20 at the age of 79. A veteran of the Korean War, he is survived by his wife, Nora; three children, Jo-Anne, Debbie and Chris; and four grandchildren.

At Your Service

BY TERESA PITMAN

ON AN AVERAGE DAY, more than 10,000 transactions — meals, snacks, drinks — go through the Hospitality Services units overseen by Chris Herkimer, assistant department head, food-service operations.

Handling all those transactions are about 200 employees whom Herkimer describes as “excellent people who make me proud. I depend on them daily, and they support me. I love working here.”

His enthusiasm for providing great food service started when he was growing up in Hagersville, where he worked for a local restaurant. The owner’s son, Danny Marfisi, encouraged him to enrol in U of G’s hotel and food administration program and even wrote a letter supporting his application. Once Herkimer was accepted, Marfisi helped him get a job as a waiter at the former Whippetree restaurant in the University Centre.

“By the time I graduated in 1993, I had worked my way up to student manager at the Whippetree,” says Herkimer.

After graduation, he was lured away from U of G by the Red Lobster restaurant chain, where he spent four years. “I learned a lot there about how to deal with people and how to manage efficiently,” he says.

In 1997, Herkimer returned to Guelph, first to work in the OVC cafeteria and then to manage several other food locations, including Creelman, Mountain, Prairie and Centre Six.

Today, he oversees the main kitchen on Level 0 of the UC, where baked goods and other foods are prepared for various locations on



“I treat this as if it were my restaurant,” says Chris Herkimer, standing in Centre Six, one of the hospitality units he oversees. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

campus. He’s also responsible for Centre Six, the Daily Grind, Booster Juice, Williams in the UC and the library, and Earthworks and the post office.

Recognizing how much his first mentor helped him, Herkimer has continued to look to colleagues and supervisors for inspiration.

“My role model is Ines Scapinello,” he says. “She’s been here for 57 years and is still working in the University Club. Every other day, I have a 10-minute chat with her, and she shares some of her wisdom with me. There’s never a problem she can’t help me solve, and she’s always right.”

Herkimer also collects informa-

tion from customers and the staff who interact daily with them. “I try to let people know that I have an open-door policy and that we really take concerns to heart and do our best to resolve them.”

He uses the information and comments he gathers, plus his own research, in designing and adjusting the menu on a regular basis. Small tweaks and changes can be made at any time, but he and his staff also do a complete review at the beginning of each semester.

“We research current food trends, talk to the sous chefs and talk to the customers.”

Something that has made menu planning increasingly challenging is

the growing number of people with food allergies, food intolerances and other special dietary needs, he says.

“We offer halal, vegan and vegetarian meals. It can be a challenge to find good-quality products for people who are, for example, gluten-intolerant. I met with a student who couldn’t eat gluten, and together we were able to figure out ways to make more meals available to her. Just by thickening sauces with cornstarch rather than flour, for example, we opened up more possibilities.”

The food selections of some outlets such as Subway and KFC are controlled by the franchise owners, but the menus determined by Herkimer are on a 17-day rotation.

Items that do well stay on the rotation, but those that don’t may be dropped.

He also does some testing of his own. “I try to eat something different every day to make sure the quality is always good. It’s hard when I get near that dessert counter. I try to balance it out by eating at the salad bar, too.”

Speaking of Subway, he says the U of G location is one of the most successful in this part of Ontario, selling an average of 600 subs a day.

Herkimer’s busy days don’t slow down in the summertime.

“We have about one week when it’s fairly quiet, right at the end of April, then the conference season hits and it gets busy again. Smaller conferences are fed through Centre Six, and organizers generally buy a meal plan for their participants. We’re flexible — we work out a plan that will meet the conference’s needs.”

After so many years of being hands-on in the food-service industry, Herkimer says his biggest challenge these days is “stepping back a little, observing and assisting the newer managers.”

Another challenge: balancing work and family life when he often works long hours.

His wife teaches languages at a high school in Waterloo, and he has two children, aged eight and two, who both love to visit Daddy at work when they can.

None of the challenges of his job have ever discouraged Herkimer from approaching his work with energy and determination.

“I treat this as if it were my restaurant,” he says. “You have to have a passion for this kind of work or you won’t stay in it for long.”

New Logo Reflects CCS Values, Vision

COMPUTING and Communications Services (CCS) recently unveiled a new logo and branding elements that capture its values and vision, says chief information officer Mike Ridley.

“The new logo is more than just an image,” says Ridley. “It reflects a philosophy and an attitude on behalf of all CCS staff. It embodies our commitment to serving the many unique neighbourhoods that make up the University of Guelph community and meeting their diverse needs.”

The main concept behind the logo is “open doors,” he says. “CCS serves members of the University by opening doors to better communi-

cation and better technology. It also opens doors to innovation, partnership and excellence. And through cutting-edge green technology, it is opening doors to sustainable infrastructure, providing maximum computing power with minimal environmental impact.”

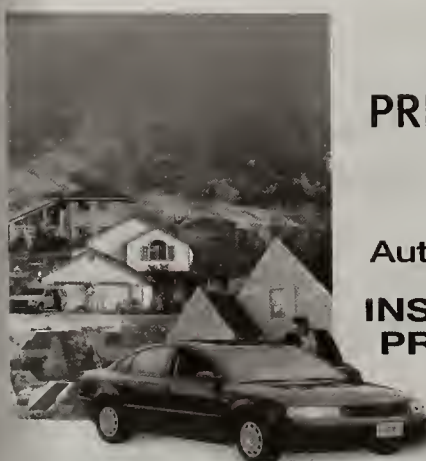
Ridley adds that the tag line “Opening Doors Through Technology” reflects CCS’s vision to be technology and knowledge solution leaders, partnering with U of G departments and IT groups and providing them with the infrastructure and expertise to succeed.

“CCS is innovating teaching, learning and research through the use of technology,” he says.

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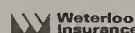


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All Together Now

From an African mining town to hometown Guelph, it's all about community engagement for prof

BY ANDREW VOWLES

TODAY IT'S THE YOUNG BOY who sticks in Prof. Lise Burcher's mind. Along with other Canadian visitors, she was in a small town in Mozambique when she spotted him. Like anyone his age — perhaps 11 or 12 — in Africa or here in Guelph, he was heading for school. But unlike any other youngster the U of G landscape architecture professor had ever seen, the boy was carrying his infant sister strapped to his back.

Seeing those orphaned children brought home to Burcher the distance she'd travelled — physically and in other ways — to arrive at this eastern African country. It also underlined the purpose of her two visits to Mozambique since 2007, her more recent travels to South America and her work here on campus and as a City of Guelph councillor. It's all about the power of community engagement, says Burcher, a U of G graduate who became a faculty member in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SED RD) three years ago.

Civic involvement takes varied forms for this professor and politician. In an ambitious variation on a perhaps-hackneyed phrase, she tries to think and act both locally and globally. For Burcher, global involvement comes through her role on the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), a lobby group for local governments. She belongs to FCM groups on women's role in local government, international relations and environmental issues. That's how she found herself first heading to Africa almost three years ago.

Under an FCM partnership program between Canada and Africa — supported by the Canadian International Development Agency — Guelph is tied to two communities in Mozambique.

Located in a thumb of land stuck between Zimbabwe and Malawi, Moatize is a coal-mining town of about 40,000 people. Xai Xai, located in southern Mozambique, is a resort town of about 116,000 people on the Indian Ocean. "I've never seen a more beautiful coastline," says Burcher.

Beautiful, but the people need help. Nearly two decades after a post-independence civil war that lasted 15 years, the country's life expectancy and infant mortality rates are among the worst in the world. HIV/AIDS has further reduced life expectancy to about 42 years; almost 500,000 children have lost one or both parents to the epidemic.

Under the FCM partnership, the City of Guelph is working to help build a new elementary school in Xai Xai and to construct a hostel in Moatize for children who've lost a parent. But Burcher stresses that the program aims to find ways to help people pursue economic development opportunities, better deliver health and social services, and improve local governance.

This is capacity-building, she says. "It's not building infrastructure but the power of peer-to-peer sharing of knowledge and experience."

It's also about adjusting a western mindset to conditions in a country where council chambers are an unheard-of luxury. Discussions with village elders in both Mozambican towns often occurred under the largest tree in the village.

Many people live in grass-roofed adobe huts half the size of the meeting room in the Landscape Architecture Building; the less well-off carry plastic sheets and other things for portable shelters. People lease state-owned land from the government. That's a tough model to fit with Canadian notions of property rights, land access and security — let alone to attract investment for development, says Burcher.

But imposing western-style ideas and systems wasn't the point. "We want to understand how they do things."

She has also arranged return visits from Mozambican offi-



Prof. Lise Burcher poses with a group of children in Xai Xai, Mozambique, one of the City of Guelph's two partner communities in the FCM municipal partner program. PHOTO COURTESY OF LISE BURCHER

cials to consult with U of G administrators and international development experts. That's a step toward providing resources, perhaps outreach and service learning in anything from soil studies to water and waste management.

Besides possible connections to the University, the partnership might involve other Guelph organizations, including service groups, faith-based groups, neighbourhoods and business organizations.

Back in Mozambique, the Canadian group also recommended altering taxation systems to help fund infrastructure projects as well as improved record-keeping systems.

Burcher says her experience suggests Canadians could learn a few things from their African partners, from resource use to community involvement to "green" practices. "As soon as they could barely feed themselves, they were giving to each other. We could all take a page from that."

She says children were especially compelling. Schools were full of life. "This ball of energy would approach you each time."

She spoke about her work with the partnership at an FCM forum in Ottawa in June.

Last year, Burcher shifted her focus from east to south. In November, she was appointed the FCM governance representative for the Caribbean and Latin America. In Argentina earlier in the fall, she spoke about climate change and community energy at a meeting of the Federation of Latin American Cities, Municipalities and Associations.

Drawing on her dual roles as councillor and faculty member, she discussed Guelph's Community Energy Plan as well as the Green Municipal Fund (GMF). That \$550-million federal fund pays for local projects in air, water and soil quality and climate protection, including several City of Guelph initiatives in sustainability and waste management. In 2008, she was appointed by the FCM board to the group that administers the fund; she's one of five municipal officials from across Canada on the GMF council.

Burcher was first elected to Guelph city council in 2003 in Ward 5, where she lives in the old University neighbourhood. Described in a *Guelph Mercury* column as a "civilized voice of tolerance and compassion" and "committed almost beyond belief," she was returned to office in 2006 with the largest number of votes of any councillor.

That was the year she became a faculty member in SED RD. Her interests as a councillor and as a professor overlap in urban design and community engagement, including the Guelph civic square redevelopment. (A U of G BLA and master's graduate, she started her PhD four years ago but has postponed her studies.)

She teaches a studio design course that sees BLA students proposing ideas and concepts for various city projects. This past fall, her class came up with ideas for redevelopment of St. George's Square.

Students also worked on ideas for the Guelph Innovation District, a mixed residential and commercial development planned for a 500-acre parcel directly east of U of G's Arboretum.

Eying the student designs displayed in the LA foyer late last semester, Burcher says she's excited about this project as a prof, as a councillor and as a city resident. She expects the development will offer a new "live-work" model for integrating housing and jobs for some 5,000 people.

As with the downtown project, she encouraged her students in the third-year course to look for ways to involve community members in their designs.

"For me, it's about effective civic engagement," says Burcher, who practised in Vancouver, Calgary, California and Toronto for about 20 years.

It's also about ways to help students plug in to real-life issues, develop conceptual smarts and sample professional practice.

"You have a sense that you're actually contributing to what's happening," says student Joshua Weber. Connecting his prof's academic and political sides, he says: "She repoliticizes design. Design doesn't exist in a vacuum."

Another student in last semester's course was Kate Nelischer, one of Burcher's two daughters. Her other daughter, Claire, is studying international development and women's studies at Queen's University. (Their dad is SED RD director Prof. Maurice Nelischer.)

SED RD professor Nate Perkins was Burcher's MLA adviser. He says his colleague's dual roles help students better understand community workings and the kinds of issues facing practitioners and elected officials alike.

Audrey Jamal, executive director of the Downtown Guelph Business Association, says Burcher "creates a link between the academic world and the community of Guelph." Jamal notes that the landscape architect led a push to redesign the city's civic square, due to open this year.

"When you create exceptional public spaces, they're actually economic development drivers for downtown," says Jamal. "Lise is very passionate about and committed to the community. She's just a great citizen."

Burcher grew up in Burlington and Hamilton. Her mother was an artist, and her father was an architect — "a real architect," she quips.

It was a project in northern Ontario that sparked her interest in community design engagement. She recalls a meeting on Manitoulin Island where the hired consultants brought in from elsewhere apparently outnumbered the local residents. "I thought: 'There needs to be a better way to do this.'"

She also credits a visit to Florida in 1992. The original assignment grew more complicated after things were flattened by hurricane Andrew that summer. "We had entire communities to redesign."

Burcher muses about returning to her PhD one day, but says she might heed another call. Praising Karen Farbridge's current role in the mayor's office, Burcher says she'd entertain a run at the top job one day.

"If that came up, I would be interested in that kind of leadership."

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY A STRATEGIC AREA FOR GUELPH

I agree with Nancy Morrison's Dec. 9 letter to the editor that the University's new sustainability website is impressive, and I look forward to U of G moving forward with its "green" commitment in the months ahead.

Regarding her concern about the University sending a representative to the official launch of the Hanlon Creek Business Park, it is important to note that U of G does not have an official position on the development of these City of Guelph lands. Rather, the University is invited to attend many city events and, likewise, welcomes city representatives to numerous University of Guelph functions such as convocation and groundbreaking ceremonies. This is an important component of our town-and-gown relationship with the greater Guelph community.

The University also works closely with the city on many environmental initiatives, including collaborating on campus conservation projects aimed at reducing water consumption and energy use, and teaming up to promote community energy planning.

Environmental sustainability is one of U of G's strategic areas, and we will continue to take positive steps to focus this community on making changes that help reduce our collective carbon footprint and to develop new sustainable programs and activities. Most recently, I have established a Presidential Task Force on Sustainability (see story on page 1), which I believe will play a fundamental role in helping the University community work together to find ways to place fewer demands on our planet.

President Alastair Summerlee

GENEROSITY APPRECIATED

Thank you to everyone who helped fill the tip jar and those who lent their voices during my holiday music fundraiser for the Guelph Humane Society in the University Centre courtyard. Scotiabank matched the \$525 raised, bringing the total to \$1,050 for the Feline Relief Fund. We appreciate your generosity.

Special Const. Jim Armstrong
Campus Community Police

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL 37-YEAR JOURNEY

I would like to thank everyone who attended my retirement party. Special thanks go to the organizers and speakers. I truly appreciate the contributions towards a gift as well as the cards, emails, phone calls and visits. It's been a wonderful 37-year journey.

Peter Landoni

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

I want to thank everyone who sent me a beautiful card after the passing of my husband, George, Nov. 18. George wanted only his family and very close friends to know he had cancer. He wanted no pity. "After all," he often said, "I've had more than 73 years of excellent health."

With your support and smiling faces and the support of my family, I will be able to "get back on the roundabout" — a favourite saying of his — and enjoy my life again. Thank you all so very much, and I wish you all the best in the new year.

Jan Walker

At Guelph welcomes letters to the editor. They should be limited to 500 words and submitted to bchance@uoguelph.ca.



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held at the end of the semester for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by Jan. 15 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@exec.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

Retired Physicist to Design Artwork for Science Complex

Continued from page 1

"I saw it was right and breathed a sigh of relief. I had done the math and models, but if I had been wrong on an \$80,000 project . . ."

(The entire square renovation, including lighting and new benches, cost about \$80,000.)

"I know I got it perfect," he says. "The picture came out with an absolutely straight top line. I'm quite

pleased with it."

So were city officials and passersby who stopped to take in the pillar's trompe-l'oeil effect. Referring to the cylinder's slanted top, Hunt says of the piece: "It's already got a nickname: 'Kitchener's Lipstick.'"

A decade ago, physics professor Bernie Nickel — who retired last year — helped him work out the complicated equations for designing variously shaped anamorphs. Despite the long history of anamorphic art, no one had figured out the math behind the images until the U of G duo teamed up.

In 2007, Hunt created an exhibit for the "Shakespeare — Made in Canada" show held at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. That work caught MacKay's eye during a visit and led to their collaboration on the piece for "Speaker's Corner."

Another example of Hunt's handiwork adorns the foyer of the

MacNaughton Building. Glance upward and you'll spot images of Einstein and Newton reflected in a suspended steel cylinder.

Now he has another campus project. Last month, he received approval to design and build a different kind of anamorphic work to adorn an interior wall of the science complex. The new piece will be based not on mirrors but on the changing perspective of passersby.

Approach it from one direction and you'll see one image printed across a series of angled vertical protrusions. Look back as you pass the display and you'll see a second image on the reverse side of the slats.

Hunt likens the effect to images flipping back and forth on the rotating shutters of an advertising billboard — "except mine is perfect and the advertising ones are not."

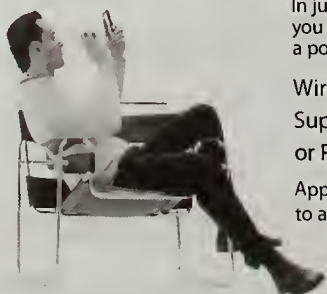
He hopes to complete the piece by the end of this year.



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The next issue of *At Guelph*
will appear Jan. 27.
Copy deadline is Jan. 19.

REBECCA HALLETT

Faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences, joined U of G in 1998

In the 1930s, Prof. Rebecca Hallett's grandmother travelled from her home in England to Egypt. "That was quite an amazing thing to do at the time," says Hallett, "but all we have from that trip are one or two photos and no stories — no details about what it was like."

Wishing that she knew more about her grandmother's trip and her experiences in Egypt, Hallett is determined to create a more expansive legacy for her own family.

"I do scrapbooking, but I don't do fussy, frilly scrapbooks," she says. "My goal is to preserve photos and tell the stories that go along with them."

Many of her scrapbooks focus on her travels. Right now, she's almost finished one about the year she spent in Indonesia doing research for her master's thesis on the impact of the diamondback moth on the country's crops. Next on her list is a scrapbook about her adventures during her PhD research, which took her back to Indonesia, as well as to Malaysia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

"I find it both creative and productive," she says of scrapbooking. "It's a chance to do something with all those dusty boxes of photos, but I also hope my children will look at them one day and get some insight into their mother and her life."

Hallett's children are 13 and eight, and she has also put together scrapbooks to record their lives.

The tough part, she admits, is finding the time. "I had a friend who got me into scrapbooking because she was a Creative Memories consultant, and she held a workshop once a month where people could gather and talk and work on their scrapbooks. I also try to go on a scrapbooking retreat once a year. It's the best way to get things done."

HALEY GOTFRID

Fourth-year political science student

"I'm from a big Jewish community in Toronto, so joining the Jewish Students' Organization (JSO) when I came to U of G seemed like a good way to get involved with people with common interests," says Haley Gotfrid.

She enjoyed her involvement with the group so much that she's now the president, a role she says is fairly demanding because the JSO has more than 500 members and has many activities planned throughout the year.

"The organization provides a nice way for Jews to connect culturally and socially," says Gotfrid, "and many non-Jews stop by to see what our events are all about."

As president, she is responsible for the logistics of

each activity, working mostly behind the scenes to ensure that things run smoothly.

The JSO's biggest event of the year is a weekend-long conference, but the group also hosts many smaller events, including traditional Friday-night dinners on select Fridays throughout the year, cooking classes and Hebrew lessons. Weekly lunches featuring bagels with cream cheese and lox are open to everyone.

JSO members also get involved in charitable works, including a recent building project with Habitat for Humanity.

"I think it's important to be involved outside of school because it adds diversity and broadness to your education and to your résumé," says Gotfrid. "As president of the JSO, I have learned a lot about working with people. People join organizations such as ours for different reasons and don't always concur on issues, so I've learned to make compromises."

She notes that you don't have to be Jewish to join the group or participate in its activities. "We're a pretty vibrant club, and we get a lot of people out to our events."

For more information, send email to jso@uoguelph.ca, visit the website www.uoguelph.ca/clubs/jso or search for "Guelph Jewish Students' Organization" on Facebook.

LYNDA SLATER

Education specialist in the Centre for Students With Disabilities since 1998

The importance of community involvement is a message Lynda Slater is hammering home this year.

For the past 12 months, she's been part of a Habitat for Humanity steering committee that's responsible for bringing the first women-only building project to Guelph.

"I'm really looking forward to getting out there and working with hundreds of women who all share the same goal," says Slater, who chairs the group's public relations subcommittee. "It's a unique opportunity for women from all walks of life to get together to learn new skills and give a family a hand up."

She estimates that 250 volunteers will be needed for the three-month project, which is scheduled to start in late spring.

Slater is also excited to be participating in some fundraising events that will support the project. On Jan. 14, she'll attend a special evening with the Guelph Hurricanes hockey team, which will feature Canadian hockey legend Paul Henderson and NHL linesman Ray Scapinello.

On Jan. 28, she'll be at Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School for the official Women Build 2010 kickoff. And she'll be dressed to impress at Mardi Gras Magic, a dinner and dance fundraiser, Feb. 5 at the Best Western Hotel. For information about these events and the building project, call 519-767-9752.

"This is going to be such an incredible opportunity for everyone involved," says Slater. "There's nothing more powerful than knowing you've helped change a life."



Rebecca Hallett



Lynda Slater



Haley Gotfrid

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Editor's note: This is one in a series of columns about the tree species that can be found on the U of G campus. It is written by certified arborist Rob Shaw-Lukavsky, a gardener in the Grounds Department.

ON THE NORTH SIDE of Macdonald Stewart Hall stand two large bitternut hickory trees, one in the back courtyard and the other just outside the kitchen windows. Both trees are massive, spreading wide over the surrounding landscapes, standing taller than the building and other neighbouring trees. These would be impressive trees by any measure, but for hickories, they're astounding.

Hickory is not a species that would be considered an urban tree. It is very sensitive to soil conditions, doesn't tolerate construction or other disturbances and is notoriously difficult to transplant. Bitternut is a

slow grower and is not a readily available commercial tree. For all these reasons, it is surprising to see such beautiful healthy specimens here on campus. In fact, these trees are remarkable even when compared with the same species growing in their natural forest environment at this latitude.

Easily identified, the bitternut hickory has smooth bark and distinctive sulphur yellow leaf buds. Although many hickory species produce edible nuts, bitternut, as the name suggests, does not. It is, however, the preferred wood for producing "hickory-smoked" foods.

Strong and durable, the wood is commonly used for furniture, flooring, panelling, tool handles, bats and other sports equipment. Native Americans used the wood for making bows, and early settlers extracted oil from bitternut seeds to treat rheumatism and to burn in oil lamps.

EVENTS

ARBORETUM

Naturalist Jenn Bock leads owl prowls Jan. 29 and 30 and Feb. 5 and 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults or \$40 for a family of four. Deadline for registration and payment is Jan. 15. Call Ext. 52358.

"Photographing Winter Landscapes" is the focus of a workshop led by photographer Sylvia Galbraith Jan. 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$55. Registration and payment are due Jan. 15.

CONCERTS

The School of Fine Art and Music's Thursday at Noon concert series kicks off the winter semester with Fergus Hambleton of the Sattalites performing reggae tunes Jan. 28. On Feb. 4, Infinitus performs works from Handel to hip-hop. Concerts start at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

LECTURES

The Department of History hosts Elizabeth Jane Errington, dean of arts at the Royal Military College of Canada, Jan. 15 at 3 p.m. in MacKinnon 132. Her topic is "RMC and Becoming an Imperial Gentleman: A Preliminary Study of Masculinity, Nationhood and Empire."

The GWPI Distinguished Lecture Series presents physicist David Nelson of Harvard University Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. in Physics 145 at the University of Waterloo. He will discuss

"Gene Surfing in Micro-organisms." A reception will follow.

NOTICE

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic is offering a relaxation and stress management skills program beginning Jan. 26. Three times are available: noon and 8 p.m. in UC 335 and 5:30 p.m. in OVC 3648. The clinic is also offering a four-session relaxation "booster" class beginning Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in UC 335. A better sleep workshop for perimenopausal women runs Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in UC 442, and a five-session better sleep program begins Feb. 5 at noon in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers or leave a message at Ext. 52662.

SEMINARS

The Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology presents Mike Surette, a Canada Research Chair and professor at the University of Calgary, discussing "The Cystic Fibrosis Airway Microbiome and Its Role in Airway Disease" Jan. 13. On Feb. 3, Prof. Paul Hebert, Canada Research Chair and director of the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, considers "A Census of All Life." The talks begin at 12:30 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 156.

"Canada and Veterinary Parasitology" is the topic of Prof. Owen Slocombe, Pathobiology, in the

Department of Pathobiology seminar series Jan. 15. The series continues Jan. 22 with PhD student Jennifer Brisbin discussing "Regulation of the Chicken Immune System by Commensal Microflora" and Jan. 29 with Andrijana Rajic of the Public Health Agency of Canada on "Research Synthesis: Opportunities and Challenges for Interdisciplinary Collaboration." The seminars begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

Next up in the Department of Integrative Biology seminar series Jan. 19 is post-doc Brian Benscoter explaining "Community Composition and Disturbance in Wetland Ecosystems: Feedbacks in a Changing Climate." On Jan. 26, the topic is "Patterns and Processes in a Boreal Forest Understory Community: Top-Down and Bottom-up Regulation, Ecosystem Function and Invasibility" with Roy Turkington of the University of British Columbia. The seminars are at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

University of Toronto physicist Ken Burch is guest speaker in the Department of Physics seminar series Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 101. His topic is "Manipulating Materials on the Nanoscale."

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for the following Teaching Support Services events can be found at www.tss.uoguelph.ca.

TSS's graduate student workshop series presents "Lesson Planning

101" Jan. 14 and "Creating and Using Rubrics to Grade Written Work" Jan. 20.

For instructors using Desire2Learn (D2L) in their on-campus courses this semester, TSS offers "D2L Starter Kit" Jan. 19, 26 and 27. Drop-in clinics continue Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in McLaughlin Library 200-A.

Upcoming "Learning Circle" discussion groups include "Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning" led by Prof. Anne Milne, English and Theatre Studies, Jan. 14 and "Teaching on the Edge" Jan. 27.

The Graduate Student Winter Teaching Workshop focuses on "Inclusive Teaching and Academic Integrity" Jan. 29. Speakers are Mahejabeen Ebrahim, associate director of the Human Rights and Equity Office, and U of G judicial officer Philip Zachariah.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of rural studies PhD candidate Jaime Mishibinijima is Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. in Landscape Architecture 125. The thesis is "Identity as a Social Indicator of Health: First Nations Women on Manitoulin Island." The adviser is Prof. Marta Rohatynskyj.

The final examination of Melerin Madekufamba, a PhD candidate in the Department of Chemistry, is Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m. in science complex

1504. The thesis is "Ion Pairing, Interactions and Speciation of Divalent Cations With Aqueous Oxy-Anions at High Temperatures and Pressure." The adviser is Prof. Peter Tremaine.

The final examination of PhD candidate Abdolhamid Dehvari, Environmental Sciences, is Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. in Thornbrough 1360. The thesis is "DEM Application and Qualification With Regard to Terrain Analysis, Land-Use Classification and Watershed Modelling." The adviser is Prof. Richard Heck.

The final examination of PhD candidate Fushan Liu, Molecular and Cellular Biology, is Jan. 22 at 1 p.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "Protein-Protein Interactions Between Starch Synthetic Enzymes in Cereals." The advisers are Profs. Mike Emes and Ian Tetlow.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Guelph Little Theatre production of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* by Jim Cartwright begins Jan. 28 and continues weekends until Feb. 14. Call 519-821-0270 for ticket information.

The Guelph-Wellington chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation hosts "Gala Royale — Kick-Start a Heart," a fundraising dinner and dance, Feb. 6 at Guelph Place. Money raised will be used to buy automated external defibrillators. For more information, call Sara Felske at 519-837-4858.

On the Trail of Family Stories

U of G prof travels the country for his new role as on-air genealogist with History TV's *Ancestors in the Attic*

BY LORI BONA HUNT

PROF. KEVIN JAMES, History, hit the small screen last week in his debut as on-air genealogist with History Television's hit show *Ancestors in the Attic*.

James was both a researcher and panelist on the first three seasons of the show, which helps Canadians unearth mysteries about their past. But last winter, the producers asked if he'd be willing to step into the role of on-air "lab guy." Soon James found himself catching a midnight plane to Newfoundland to shoot his first episode.

"They needed someone right away, and I guess I fit the bill well enough," he says.

Life has been a whirlwind ever since, with James hastily joining the actors' union and getting some on-the-job TV training. For most of 2009, he spent his weekdays researching and teaching Scottish studies at U of G and his weekends flying all over Canada to film segments of the show.

"On Fridays, a limousine would

pick me up for the airport. I'd fly off, do an 18-hour shoot and come home," he says. "It's been a juggling act."

The show takes viewers around the world as James and others help Canadians find lost relatives and discover the truth behind unsolved family mysteries.

"For me, this has been an amazing opportunity to get outside the University and see how history and research can make a huge difference on a personal level for people who have questions that need to be answered," he says.

One episode is set in Belarus, where a Canadian woman is searching for a sister who was lost during the Russian Revolution. Another is based in China, where a woman is trying to uncover her father's secret past. Other stories are set in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, France and Italy.

"These are important quests, and the stories are deeply personal," says James. "You get to know the subjects so well and to really care about them as people."

Two of James's favourite stories will air Jan. 14. One is about a man named Al Lambert, who was a navigator and squadron commander during the Second World War. In 1943, he was shot down over occupied France and went missing. His family had no news of his whereabouts for five months before he suddenly surfaced. He never discussed what happened to him. His grandson Chris Lambert came to *Ancestors in the Attic* wanting to retrace his grandfather's footsteps during that missing period of his life.

"We went over there to the place where he was shot down and discovered he was harboured by an entire town," says James. "The whole community took care of him and kept him a secret. We found a man who was a 16-year-old boy at the time and remembered the whole story. It was very emotional."

Another story involves two women and some old postcards and letters from Canadian soldiers during the First World War.

"Both of the soldiers had died, and both women felt the need to

track down the families of the respective men and return the postcards and letters. We help them do this."

Each episode of the show includes a "reveal" in which the mystery is solved or the answers (or a lack of answers) are unveiled.

"We don't tell them in advance what's going to happen, so consequently their reactions are deeply moving," says James. "Part of my job is to bring them comfort; I believe it's the reason I was chosen for this job. I'm an emotional person, and I get very emotionally involved with the subjects. I am fascinated and moved by their stories."

Solving the mysteries or unearthing those answers requires a lot of research, including in libraries, online and in other countries.

"We pick stories that aren't too easy to solve but that we can still resolve in some way," he says. "We don't even know what's going to happen. We end up with all kinds of dead ends."

James filmed the "made-in-Canada" portions of the show, while the

show's star, Jeff Douglas, did the international travel. Douglas is known for his work on the "I am Canadian" commercials.

Although he loved working as a researcher and doing some on-air studio work for the show for three years, James never expected to find himself in front of the camera, in the field and trekking all over the country. He knew the show was holding a casting call for a new "staff genealogist/lab guy," but he didn't apply. "I just never saw myself doing this."

Watching himself on TV has taken a bit of adjusting, says James, who adds that he quickly went on a diet and started growing out his curly hair after getting an early preview of the show. "I realized that, from some angles, I was starting to look bald," he laughs.

"The most exciting thing was watching my three-year-old son when he saw a tape of the show. He couldn't understand how I ended up on TV, but he was so excited to see me there."

Ancestors in the Attic airs Thursdays at 6 and 9 p.m. on History TV.

INSIDE: RIDGETOWN PROF HONOURED • MELDING SCIENCE AND ART • LESSONS LEARNED

Three to Receive Honorary Degrees

Winter convocation Feb. 16 and 17 in War Mem Hall

ABORIGINAL CANADIAN LEADER Phil Fontaine, who made national history when he accepted Canada's formal apology for the tragedy of residential schools, will receive an honorary degree during Guelph's winter convocation Feb. 16 and 17.

The University will also present honorary degrees to James Bartleman, the first aboriginal person to hold the position of lieutenant-governor of Ontario, and Frank Barnes, whose academic achievements have made significant contributions to telecommunications.

In addition, Ted Bilyea, who helped Maple Leaf Foods become the largest exporter of food in Canada, will receive the MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture, an award given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to agriculture in Canada over the last five years.

U of G will award almost 800 degrees and diplomas during six ceremonies in War Memorial Hall. Convocation begins Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. with a ceremony for the College

of Arts. U of G president Alastair Summerlee will address the graduating class. He will also give the convocation address at the 1 p.m. ceremony for the College of Biological Science.

At the 4 p.m. ceremony for the College of Management and Economics, Fontaine will receive an honorary doctorate of laws and address the graduands.

He was elected for three terms as national chief of the Assembly of First Nations between 1997 and 2009 and previously served three consecutive terms as grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. An inspirational leader, Fontaine has significantly enhanced the circumstances and potential of First Nations people. One of his most significant achievements was his pivotal role in negotiating the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, which is the largest and most comprehensive settlement in Canadian history.

On Feb. 17, the first of two cere-

Continued on page 10



Doubling Up

Growing up in a small town in New Brunswick, twin sisters Nadine, left, and Lydia Frost were fiercely competitive with each other, running head to head in academics and athletics. Now mellowed, the U of G President's Scholars say they view themselves as a team and are pooling their talents for Guelph's top-ranked track team and local youth programs. See story on page 7.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

U of G Applications up 6.2 Per Cent

Guelph-Humber applications jump four per cent

TOTAL APPLICATIONS to U of G are up 6.2 per cent — nearly three times the system average — and applications to the University of Guelph-Humber have increased four per cent, according to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC).

In addition, the number of students who named U of G or Guelph-Humber as their "first choice" jumped by 8.6 and 9.9 per cent respectively. That's significantly higher than the system average increase of 2.7 per cent.

OUAC's annual January snapshot of applications is intended to help universities with their enrolment planning. It includes data on how many students applied to Ontario universities from both within and outside the secondary school system; the number of applications those students generated; and which schools were their first, second, third or lower choices.

These figures show that U of G received a total of 23,369 applications, and 4,196 were made to Guelph-Humber.

"The increase in our application numbers shows that our efforts to get the word out about Guelph are paying off," says Prof. Maureen Mancuso, provost and vice-president (academic). "Outstanding students are choosing U of G because of its reputation for outstanding faculty and programs and a caring residential environment."

Mancuso adds that, based on past trends, Guelph is set to meet its enrolment targets.

OUAC also released details about applications from non-secondary students, which includes mature, transfer, out-of-province and former high school students. System-wide, applications from this group have increased 0.5 per cent so far. At U of G's main campus, applications from this cohort are up 2.5 per cent.

Civic Imprints Week of Action Aims to Ignite Citizenship

Student Volunteer Connections hosts fourth annual Positive Social Action Conference

LEADERSHIP and Community Engagement in Student Life is hosting the Civic Imprints Week of Action until Jan. 31 to ignite and foster global citizenship on campus. Donations collected during the week's activities will go towards Doctors Without Borders' efforts in Haiti.

On Jan. 27, a panel discussion on "Thoughtfully Global, Thankfully Local" runs in the University Centre courtyard from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The discussion will focus on local labour rights and the current fight for fair and safe working conditions. Panelists are Sid Ryan, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour and former president of CUPE Ontario; Edgar Godoy, president of CUPE Local 2191; Janice Folk-Dawson, president of CUPE Local 1334; and labour lawyer Ryan White.

At 5:30 p.m., a presentation on World University Service of Canada's student refugee program runs in Room 116 of the MacKinnon Building.

On Jan. 28, an open discussion

on what it means to be a citizen of Canada and a citizen of the world begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Watson Hall lounge. This informal discussion will allow participants to interact with people from around the world and learn about diverse cultures. Throughout the week, there will also be an opportunity to take the Canadian citizenship test at booths set up in residence lobbies until Jan. 29.

The week wraps up with the fourth annual Positive Social Action Conference Jan. 29 to 31 in Rozanski Hall. Organized by Student Volunteer Connections, the free conference aims to spur social action through innovative teachings, social networking and hands-on community participation.

"This conference will get students on their feet, engaging in their passions and starting the new year off ready to make a difference in their world," says Jordan Thompson, program co-ordinator for Student Volunteer Connections.

Highlights include a keynote address by Marva Wisdom, a commu-

nity trainer and volunteer expert, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m., followed by a performance by Free the Children singer Louise Kent at 8:30 p.m. in the Bullring.

Jan. 30 events include a 2 p.m. talk by Ray Zahab, a world adventurer who was the first person to successfully run across the Sahara Desert and Antarctica.

Sessions throughout the day will focus on environmental sustainability, poverty, and health and wellness. Speakers include Gulu Walk founders Adrian Bradbury and Kieran Hayward and the national executive director of Meal Exchange, Dave Kranenburg.

On Jan. 31 at 9 a.m., president Alastair Summerlee will address students before they participate in a morning of community outreach. At 3 p.m., Mr. Something Something, the only Canadian band whose entire performance is operated by bicycle power, will perform.

More information and registration details are available at www.uoguelph.ca/~svc/psac.html.

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from the president

We Can Work Together to Address Challenges

Editor's note: President Alastair Summerlee welcomes comments on his column at president@uoguelph.ca.

THE PAST YEAR has certainly been a challenging one. Every department, program, activity and unit across campus has felt the impact of the budget cuts that had to be implemented as part of the multi-year budget plan to remove our structural deficit.

So what do we have to look forward to in 2010? Another year of budget reductions as part of our commitment to the multi-year budget plan, but also some added pressures.

Unless the government changes the accounting regulations on pensions, we will be forced to make multi-million-dollar contributions to our pension fund in the middle of the year. This will affect our ability to operate as an institution, and in the longer term, we will have to change our pension structure to survive.

At the same time, the provincial government is facing a multi-billion-dollar deficit, and we know there are calls for expenditure restraint in a number of ministries. We already know the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) budget will be reduced for 2010/11, but we are working closely with ministry staff to minimize the impact of any budget cuts.

We don't know about the possible impact on the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities budget. The government has indicated that it will renew the funding framework for the post-secondary system, but in the current economic climate, increases in funding are more likely to be focused on the outer years of the new framework.

One of our challenges is that any funding announcements and any conditions on tuition will be brought forward only in the provincial budget, which is likely to be in late March.

Once again, therefore, we will be bringing forward a preliminary draft budget making a number of assumptions about the funding available from government.

And once again I am asking members of the University community for their patience, help and understanding as we do our best to put together a preliminary

budget to take to Board of Governors in the spring.

As always, we are committed to making the budget process open and inclusive. We have already had discussions among senior administration members and student leaders about the budget and the upcoming planning process.

By month's end, all departments and units will have submitted their integrated planning revisions to the provost. These changes, along with the University's position for tuition, ancillary fees and residence fees, will be included in the planning and budget materials that will be shared across campus. By mid-February, the Finance Committee will begin developing a preliminary operating budget that includes risks and sensitivities as well as our tuition assumptions.

On Feb. 22, provost Maureen Mancuso and I will host a campus-wide "Rumour Mill" on the budget and will answer questions from the community.

In March, a preliminary budget, including the OMAFRA budget and the integrated planning updates, will be distributed to members of Senate. That same month, we will hold another budget-focused "Rumour Mill." In April, the preliminary budgets will be presented to B of G.

Against this backdrop, the University continues to rise — literally. A number of construction projects that were needed to maintain and enhance quality are nearing completion. In addition, there will be announcements in upcoming weeks about new gifts made to the University as part of our ongoing fundraising efforts.

I realize it's sometimes difficult to understand the need to deal with changes so we can balance the operating budget as we continue to build and renovate and do fundraising. But it's important to keep in mind that funds for construction projects and those garnered from contributions cannot be used towards the operating budget.

As I've said before, this will be a difficult time for the entire institution, but budget challenges are nothing new for this university. Time and time again, we've shown that we can work together to address challenges and preserve the quality of the Guelph educational experience.

OAC Honours Ridgetown Prof for Agricultural Extension Work

Weed-management specialist lauded for contributions to agricultural industry

PROF. PETER SIKKEMA, a weed-management specialist in the Department of Plant Agriculture at Ridgetown Campus, has received the Ontario Agricultural College's T.R. Hilliard Distinguished Agricultural Extension Award for 2009.

Named in memory of the late Dick Hilliard, a 1940 OAC graduate and former deputy minister of agriculture and food, the award was established in the early 1980s by the OAC Alumni Foundation to recognize individuals who are making outstanding contributions to agricultural extension in Ontario.

cultural extension in Ontario.

OAC dean Rob Gordon presented the award Jan. 7 during the annual Southwest Agricultural Conference at Ridgetown.

"Dr. Sikkema is highly regarded locally, provincially, nationally and internationally for his applied research in field-crop weed management," said Gordon. "His work is respected by his academic peers and is highly valued by Ontario growers and agribusiness groups as well for its real impact on agricultural crop protection."

A faculty member in the Department of Plant Agriculture since 2003, Sikkema has developed one of North America's largest field-crop weed-management programs and is described by his nominators as an exemplary mentor and leader.

His innovative approaches to extension include the development of a website designed to help members of the agricultural industry improve weed control and reduce the incidence of crop injury. The website can be found at <http://ridgetown.uoguelph.ca/weeds>.

at GUELPH

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STAFF, FACULTY NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR B OF G, BOARD PENSIONS COMMITTEE

The University Secretariat is calling for nominations for one faculty seat on Board of Governors and one seat for a regular full-time non-academic staff member. Both are for three-year terms. Nominations are also sought for four seats on the board's Pensions Committee — two for members of the professional pension plan and two for members of the retirement pension plan. These are for two-year terms. Nomination deadline is Feb. 5. For details, visit www.uoguelph.ca/secrariat/elections.php.

ANNUAL JOB FAIR FEB. 3

U of G, the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College hold their annual job fair Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at RIM Park in Waterloo. The event is expected to draw nearly 150 employers from across North America and 3,000 students and recent alumni from the four institutions. Shuttle bus service will run from U of G to RIM Park throughout the day. More information is available at www.partners4employment.ca.

LIBRARY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR HUMAN LIBRARY

The U of G Library is looking for volunteers for its second annual Human Library, a unique event designed to break down barriers between people. It runs March 4 and 5. The "books" in a Human Library are people who belong to groups that frequently face challenges due to broad generalizations, misunderstanding and even marginalization. Readers will be able to borrow a "book" for 30 minutes. To volunteer or to learn more about the event, visit the website http://academictownsquare.lib.uoguelph.ca/human_library.

The following appointments were announced recently at U of G:

- Katherine Ferus, manager, finance and administration, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences dean's office and Financial Services
- Andrew Godard, client service supervisor, Department of Athletics
- Jennifer Gallagher, registered veterinary technician, OVC Health Sciences Centre
- Maria Hersey, secretary, CSAHS dean's office
- Wayne Johnston, head of research enterprise and scholarly communications, U of G Library
- Andrea McMillan, registered veterinary technician, OVC Health Sciences Centre
- Barbara Merrill, graduate secretary, School of Fine Art and Music
- Randy Oldham, web development librarian, U of G Library
- Elke Radeboldt, secretary to the associate dean (academic), arts and social sciences, College of Arts
- Susan Travers, development assistant, Alumni Affairs and Development
- Leigh West, contracts officer, Office of Research.

Mothers in Prison

Sociologist studies what compels moms to commit crime — or not



Prof. Carolyn Yule digs at the roots of women's criminal behaviour.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

BY TERESA PITMAN

FOR FOUR YEARS, Prof. Carolyn Yule, Sociology and Anthropology, met with women in jail — more than 150 in total — sitting side-by-side with them in locked rooms with a guard outside the door as they shared the stories of their lives.

"It was honestly life-changing for me," says Yule, who joined U of G this month. "I learned so much — not just about crime but also about human nature and the human spirit."

Her interviews — conducted primarily at the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton — were part of a larger project involving researchers in Ontario, Baltimore and Minneapolis who interviewed women in correctional institutions.

Yule says crime was a common topic around the dinner table when she was growing up because her father was a lawyer. In fact, she considered going to law school but realized she was more interested in understanding the causes of criminal behaviour.

That interest led her to study sociology at the University of British Columbia — she was born and raised in Vancouver — then to head east for graduate work at the University of Toronto. Her doctoral thesis is based on those interviews of incarcerated women but looks specifically at whether women are more or less likely to commit crimes when they're responsible for the care of their children.

"If you read the literature or talk to women in custody, you learn that being separated from their children is a huge source of pain for them," she says.

Knowing that led her to wonder whether mothers would try to avoid offending so they wouldn't be taken away from their kids. Previous research had studied the feelings and perceptions of mothers, but none had sought to track their actual behaviour when they were caring for their children.

Yule says the larger study's overall focus on violence and victimization in the lives of incarcerated women offered a good opportunity to get the information she needed.

"The focus wasn't on being a mother, so the women weren't inclined to hedge on the truth to make themselves look like better mothers."

She found that having children to take care of reduced drug use and property crimes among the women in her study, but it had no effect on whether the women dealt drugs or used violence against their intimate partners.

The crimes that decreased — drug use and property crimes — were ones where the women had more autonomy, says Yule. Many women said they wanted to avoid using drugs for the sake of their children and were well aware of the harmful effects of drug use during pregnancy and while caring for young children. Property crimes seemed to have often been for "extras" such as fancier shoes or stylish clothes, and stealing for those items didn't seem to be worth the risk of separation from children, she says.

So why were rates of drug dealing and domestic partner violence unaffected? Both of these are more complex, she says.

In many cases, the woman's partner is dealing drugs in the home, and it's easiest for the woman to participate even if she doesn't use the drugs

herself, says Yule. In terms of domestic violence, some incidents involved both partners fighting and others were cases of self-defence.

"Usually, despite engaging in violence themselves, the women ended up more severely injured than their male partners," she adds.

This experience has confirmed for Yule just how complex the roots of criminal behaviour are.

The data collected during these extensive interviews will provide material for many future studies, says Yule, but she continues to be interested in issues surrounding motherhood and incarceration.

"I'd like to look at what these women would consider an ideal situation in terms of their children and what would help them achieve it. Not all of them want to parent or raise their children, and they may believe that what's in the best interest of the child is to give him or her to someone else."

Yule adds that her interest in these topics may be fuelled, in part, by the arrival of her now 10-month-old daughter, Olivia. But she says being a mother herself will change her experience of in-jail interviews.

"Now that I have my own daughter, I will relate to the women in a different way, especially when I'm talking to a mother who's crying because she hasn't seen her child in months and doesn't even know where he is."

Although Yule is new to U of G, she's not new to the city. She's been living here for the past 10 years while commuting to Toronto for school.

"It's wonderful to be working just five minutes from home now," she says, "and my husband and I love Guelph. It feels like home."

people

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FINE ART PROF TO BE FEATURED ON BILLBOARDS AT OLYMPICS

Work by Prof. Susan Dobson, Fine Art and Music, is currently on view in the exhibition "Beyond Place: Recent Photography Acquisitions" at the Portland Art Museum in Portland, Ore. Her work will also be featured on two billboards outside venues at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. The billboards are part of a public art project called "Endlessly Traversed Landscapes," organized by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Winter Games. During the Olympics, her work will also be seen in an online exhibition titled "Screen 2010" at www.vancouver2010.com/code.

ONTARIO PLANNERS HONOUR OAC PROF

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute has established a scholarship to recognize Prof. Wayne Caldwell, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, for his service and leadership as president of the institute. The scholarship will recognize a student member of the institute who is making an important contribution to food planning.

THOMPSON PLAY STAGED

Such Creatures, a new play by Prof. Judith Thompson, School of English and Theatre Studies, is running at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto until Feb. 6.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION SET

A retirement reception will be held Jan. 27 for Sue Desautels of Undergraduate Program Services, who first joined the University in 1973. It runs from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 334 of the University Centre.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN DEMAN

A memorial service will be held Feb. 7 at the Arboretum at University professor emeritus John deMan, the founding chair of Guelph's Department of Food Science, who died Jan. 12 at the age of 84. Visitation is at noon, followed by the service at 1 p.m. A PhD graduate of the University of Alberta, Prof. deMan taught there until joining U of G in 1968 as food science chair. He retired in 1990 and is survived by his wife, Leny; three children, Jo-Anne, Helen and Paul; and six grandchildren.

BEVERLEY KAY

Professor emeritus Bev Kay of the School of Environmental Sciences died Jan. 14 at the age of 67. A two-time graduate of OAC and a PhD graduate of Purdue University, he joined Guelph's soil science faculty in 1969 and chaired the Department of Land Resource Science from 1983 to 1994. In the mid-1990s, he co-chaired U of G's Strategic Planning Commission. A Fellow of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, he retired in 2005. Prof. Kay is survived by his wife, Maureen, and two children, Ailsa and Laird.

U of G Moves Forward in Preparing Preliminary MTCU Budget

AT ITS JAN. 13 MEETING, Board of Governors was updated on Guelph's plans to move forward in preparing its preliminary Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities 2010/11 budget.

Although details about forthcoming government support won't be known until well after the provincial budget is released in the spring, the board learned that it's likely the government will reduce funding in some areas. The University will proceed with its budget and integrated planning process in order to bring a preliminary budget to B of G in April.

Governors were also briefed on implementation of the multi-year plan to eliminate U of G's structural deficit and fund anticipated cost increases, and were told the integrated plan will continue to guide resource allocation decisions.

Semester reports and general budget updates, as well as the five-year capital renewal financial plan, which includes various campus renewal and student housing projects, were also reviewed.

B of G heard about ongoing advocacy efforts related to the University's pension filing requirements. Currently, U of G is scheduled to file in 2010, which would require an increase in the annual contribution from about \$20 million to an estimated \$70 million to \$100 million. Although universities are lobbying the government for changes, it's anticipated their efforts may not have an impact on this year's filing.

Governors were also updated on the implementation of Guelph's Code of Ethical Conduct for Suppliers and Subcontractors, which includes products with the U of G logo such as apparel. The code requires suppliers to adhere to certain workplace standards and is intended to minimize the possibility of Guelph contributing to oppressive working conditions, especially in developing countries. The board learned that few universities have such codes and that U of G plans to share its code with other campuses.

Prof. Maureen Mancuso, provost and vice-president (academic), and Brenda Whiteside, associate vice-president (student affairs), gave a presentation on the cost of attending university at U of G compared with other Ontario institutions. Guelph continues to hover around the middle of the pack in terms of tuition but has higher post-graduation employment rates.

In other business, B of G was advised that the design for Phase 1 of the Richards/Thornbrough Building renovations and expansion has been approved.

Lessons Learned

'Faculty brat' credits parents for her commitment to teaching

BY ANDREW VOWLES

PROF. JANET WOOD, Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB), still remembers the first undergraduate class she taught at Guelph as a new faculty member. It was fall 1977. Arriving on the hour for her first lecture, she began writing on the blackboard and speaking to a sparsely populated classroom.

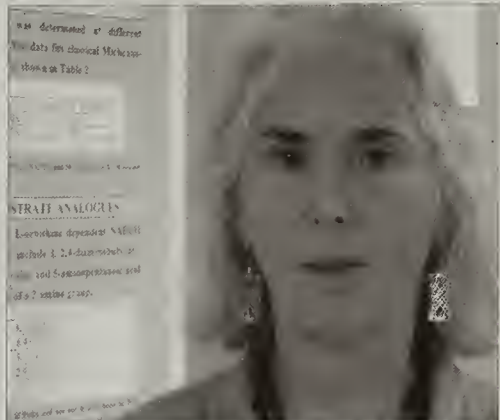
"I didn't realize most of the students weren't there yet," says Wood.

A short time later, she learned her own first lesson at U of G: classes began 10 minutes after the hour.

Since then, there have been more than a few lectures and lessons for this longtime teacher and researcher. That 32-year-long record was recognized in the fall when she received the 2009 College of Biological Science Teaching Award.

Known as a dedicated teacher who demands commitment and effort from her students, Wood has taught courses in MCB, in the former departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Microbiology, and in the Guelph-Waterloo Centre for Graduate Work in Chemistry and Biochemistry. In 1995, she won a teaching award from the U of G Faculty Association.

Nomination letters from stu-



Prof. Janet Wood is the winner of the 2009 College of Biological Science Teaching Award. PHOTO BY TERESA PITMAN

dents and faculty especially cited a literature research lab she developed for a third-year course called "Microbial Adaptation and Development."

For this module, developed along with science librarian Sharon Taylor, students must analyze and critique a primary research article, including studying the social context of the science and writing reports. Wood came up with the assignment a decade ago after realizing that students lacked practice in evaluating research literature.

Understanding how research works is vital for would-be scientists, but the exercise develops tools that students can use in many other courses, science or not, she says.

"These skills are important for all citizens, not just for practising scientists," says Wood, who studies how cells sense and control their own water content.

Writing in support of her award nomination, MCB professor George van der Merwe said: "Not only is she committed to teaching the required principles of her courses, but she is also adamant that students develop into good scientists in the process. This high bar in teaching extracts the best from her students and also motivates her colleagues to higher goals."

In his letter of support, department chair Prof. Chris Whitfield described Wood as "a dedicated teacher who is organized, rigorous and highly effective in the classroom." He noted that she receives some of the best student evaluations in MCB.

It was only about a decade ago that Wood learned to relax in the classroom. Before that, the self-described shy professor had been a tough self-critic. Several of her earliest courses had seen her teaching challenging material that wasn't necessarily her forte. She recites a line from one student evaluation from that first year on campus: "She'll be a really good teacher when she knows the stuff."

A revelation came about 10 years ago, around the same time she was developing that new research litera-

ture project. Sure, she has to be organized and on top of her material, but the focus in the classroom lies not on her but on her students.

"What they're doing is more important than what I'm doing."

She figures her commitment to teaching was planted early by her parents, particularly her father. Alex Wood taught animal science and nutrition at the University of British Columbia and was founding chair of the Department of Bacteriology and Biochemistry at the University of Victoria.

"My father believed — and I also believe — that the primary role of a public university is education. My father would say no research is justified in a university that is not relevant to students."

Acknowledging that he might regard much of her own research as too "pure," she says her studies of *E. coli* bacteria may find application in understanding kidney function, salinity tolerance in plants or ethanol production in yeast.

Janet Wood and her sister, Sandra — a former adjunct professor at UVic and a retired community planner — grew up on the UBC campus.

"I'm a faculty brat," she says, recalling her early childhood spent living in an army barracks hut. Several huts on campus had been pressed into service as inexpensive housing for students and faculty returning from Second World War service.

She started working in her father's lab at age 16, tending white-tailed deer used in nutrition studies.

Wood's mother, Eileen, studied home economics at Cornell University, where she met Alex, then a post-graduate student.

Janet Wood studied at UBC and UVic before completing her PhD at the University of Edinburgh in 1972. She worked at the National Research Council in Ottawa before joining the faculty of U of G.

In 2001, she won a YMCA-YWCA of Guelph Women of Distinction Award in Science, Technology and the Environment for her work in education and her involvement in employment equity, disability and literacy initiatives.

Human Anatomy Program Gets New Home at OVC

New space will offer flexible facilities for program to grow into the future

BY BARRY GUNN

ALL THE HUMAN, veterinary and biomedical anatomy courses taught at U of G are now under one roof. Early in January, the human anatomy program moved from the Powell Building into its new home adjacent to the Department of Biomedical Sciences on the ground floor of the Ontario Veterinary College's main building.

"We're very excited to be here," Prof. Lorraine Jadeski, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS), told guests at an open house Jan. 4. Jadeski, who is director of the human anatomy program, said the refurbished space is more flexible and functional than the program's former home and better suited to the health and safety re-

quirements of human anatomy teaching.

"Now we have the facilities that will allow us to grow into the future" in terms of both number of students and quality of programs.

Each year about 300 third-year B.Sc. students take courses in human or mammalian anatomy, and DVM students take comparative anatomy in their first year. There's also an anatomy course for fine art students.

In addition, more than 2,000 high school students from Guelph and the Greater Toronto Area took part in educational sessions last year, and the HHNS labs have hosted college students enrolled in clinical programs such as massage therapy, dental hygiene and advanced-care paramedics.

Construction of the facility took

about four months to complete, beginning in September with the demolition of classroom, laboratory and office space, some of which dated back to the 1940s. Original materials such as millwork and cabinetry were recycled wherever possible, and the new preparation area includes a refitted walk-in cooler that was part of OVC's original post-mortem area and hadn't been used for more than two decades.

Most important from a health and safety perspective, the ventilation system has been significantly upgraded to provide full fresh-air exchange 20 times an hour. The system has extra capacity to accommodate future growth.

Some office, lab and student space used by the veterinary and biomedical sciences programs was shifted elsewhere in the OVC Building to accommodate the move.

"The project management team led by John Robson did a wonderful job of turning what was underutilized space into a fully functional facility," says Prof. Neil MacLusky, chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

He adds that the relocated human anatomy program creates "tremendous" opportunities for collaboration between OVC and the College of Biological Science.

At Guelph Publication Schedule	
Publication Date	Deadline
Feb. 10	Feb. 2
Feb. 24	Feb. 16
March 10	March 2
March 24	March 16

Melding Science and Art

BY TERESA PITMAN

AFTER YOU'VE SPENT months or years on a research project, it's no easy task to compress all that work into a few nicely arranged boxes of diagrams, photos and text for a research poster that will both capture attention and convey meaning.

Although figuring out what information to include on a poster is still a challenge, designing it isn't as tough as it used to be, says Ian Smith, scientific illustrator for the College of Biological Science.

"It's much easier now," says Smith. "You just create a giant slide in PowerPoint. And people these days are usually very computer-savvy, so they can easily pull it together."

He's grateful that he doesn't have to help people as much with earlier steps of poster creation as in the past, now that he's responsible for preparing, printing and laminating as many as 500 posters a year.

"Some people do need more help, but usually I'm just tweaking a bit or tidying things up. Sometimes I can improve on the graphics or I can replace logos when I have a better version, or I'll fix the alignment of columns and make sure fonts are consistent."

Spruced up by Smith's attention to detail, the completed posters are printed out on large sheets of special paper on one of the two giant printers in his office. On average, it takes 12 to 15 minutes to complete the printing. That's a big improvement over a decade ago, he says.

"Even simple posters used to take an hour to print then, and the more complex ones were often two or three hours."

With the printed version spread



Ian Smith, scientific illustrator for the College of Biological Science, prepares up to 500 research posters each year.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

out on the large tables in the middle of Smith's office, it's time for one last check. Typos or misspelled names that somehow went unnoticed when he and the researcher were reviewing the text on a small computer screen can become glaringly obvious once printed on a three- by four-foot sheet of paper. A quick revision on the computer, and a new page can be printed.

Once a perfect version has been achieved, Smith laminates the poster.

"People get very excited at seeing

the final product when their work is turned into a professional-looking poster," he says.

Many of the posters he works on, after serving their purpose at scientific conferences, end up in CBS hallways. Those poster-lined hallways are very familiar to Smith, who earned a B.Sc. in biology and an M.Sc. in environmental biology at Guelph before joining the staff of the then Department of Zoology — first part-time, then eventually full-time.

Besides creating posters, Smith draws illustrations and schematic di-

agrams as requested by faculty to use in teaching or to include in manuals. He works first in pencil, then traces over the pencil drawing with ink on tracing paper to create a finished illustration that can be scanned into a document or presentation slide.

"Some of these are done from microscope slides," he explains, pointing to detailed sketches of cells. Others show the structure of a bird's wing or beak or provide various views of internal organs. For this type of work, even the finest detail needs to be rendered accurately.

Smith is largely self-taught as an artist but has been interested in art since childhood. On one wall of his office is a large acrylic painting he did of a kayaker on a mountain stream. Several other pictures on the wall are photographs he took, then printed on canvas.

One of the biggest challenges Smith faces in his work are those days — usually at the end of a semester — when he's trying to prepare and print a large number of posters for people facing deadlines.

"Often the researcher is flying out to a conference in a day or two and needs it done right away," he says.

Another major challenge comes when equipment problems grind everything to a halt.

"I actually enjoy doing the troubleshooting and figuring out how to fix things, but it's frustrating for the people waiting for their posters to be ready."

Although some of the studies he helps create posters for are highly technical, Smith says he enjoys learning at least a little about the many research projects in CBS. He says his work provides a perfect balance of science, interaction with people and the opportunity to use his creative talents.

"I'm doing what I always wanted to do in my work — melding science and art. I like every part of this job."

Prof. Pat Wright, Integrative Biology, says having an in-house media centre where professional artwork, scientific images and posters are produced is a great asset to CBS.

"Ian's drawings are exceptional," she says, "and we are so fortunate to be able to work with an artist who is a trained biologist. He has greatly enhanced the quality of our publications and presentations."

'My Country No Longer Exists'

Haitian earthquake reaches Guelph students in SEDRD studies of media and global development

BY ANDREW VOWLES

GOVERNOR GENERAL Michaëlle Jean's tears. Canada's rapid relief mission. Ottawa's plan to match Canadian donations to an earthquake-devastated Haiti.

These are powerful images and messages, says Prof. Helen Hamblly, School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD). And they're the very stuff of her third-year "International Communication" course on the role of the media in global development.

Small wonder that, only days after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck Haiti, she was already amending that week's course module on images of nations and international public relations.

Earlier, she had assigned students to write an essay about media and public policy focused on either the Vancouver Olympics or Canada's Afghanistan mission. Now, less than two weeks into the course, she had

added a third option: write about the interplay of media and policy decisions in Canada's response to the disaster in Haiti.

"I just changed the assignment because of world events," says Hamblly — itself a telling sign of the post-McLuhanesque world she and her students are living in.

If the Haitian earthquake had happened a few years ago, she says, classroom discussion might have been limited to asking her students what they thought of the news from Port-au-Prince. Now, writing to her students online through the course website, she was asking them to reflect on how images and messages arriving through various media were helping to drive policy responses, all more or less in real time.

For Hamblly, the course experience underlines a key purpose of communication studies offered through SEDRD's capacity development and extension stream. Back at Guelph full-time after a one-year re-

search leave, she is seeing several examples of how communication education and technology are changing the world and altering our response to a shrinking globe.

Take this semester's third-year course in "Educational Communication." For the first time, she's teaching the course entirely through distance education along with a colleague from Sweden's Malmö University.

She works with all 144 students — mostly would-be teachers and instructors — online from her office in the Landscape Architecture Building. Working with specialists in Guelph's Office of Open Learning, she has arranged for her co-instructor to provide two guest lectures during the semester.

The partnership was developed through a 2008 memorandum of understanding between U of G — particularly its Centre for International Programs — and Malmö, located near Sweden's southernmost tip.

Hamblly says the distance education course meets Guelph's strategic mission of internationalism and, combined with webcasting, is a great way to involve international guest instructors in U of G classes.

An international project of another kind occupied the Guelph professor during her recent research leave. She completed revisions to a Canadian edition of a six-year-old American textbook used in "Interpersonal Communication," a second-year course that is also offered through distance education.

The 400-page book, called *Interpersonal Communication: A Guided Tour for Canadians*, was published this year by Oxford University Press. Hamblly says the homegrown edition includes Canadian angles on such topics as race and ethnicity, conflict management and family relations. The text even draws on Guelph research on social networks and trust building, as well as father involvement in parenting.

In the fall, Hamblly and SEDRD professor John FitzSimons took part in a conference in Belgium on the role of media and communications in food, agriculture and the environment. The gathering brought together U of G with the European Union and ambassadors from Africa and Caribbean and Pacific nations.

In Belgium, she met Haiti's only agricultural journalist, Bertrand Talot. This month, he sent her a text message to say the earthquake had destroyed his office and his family's home. "Mon pays n'existe plus (my country no longer exists)," he wrote.

Last week, SEDRD hosted guest speakers from World Vision discussing Haitian relief and emergency efforts.

Other campus fundraising initiatives have been held by the Department of Athletics and Student Life. On Feb. 7, the Central Student Association is supporting a benefit concert with city partners at 7 p.m. at the River Run Centre.

Working Out the Fat

Learning how exercise can help prevent, delay diabetes keeps HHNS prof hopping

BY ANDREW VOWLES

FOR MANY PEOPLE, the arrival of kids means less time spent at the gym, arena or playing field. Not for Prof. Graham Holloway, who joined the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS) last year. Since his wife, Tanya, gave birth to twin boys 19 months ago, he has only redoubled his resolve to stay active and eat well.

Partly, Holloway wants to be a good role model as Spencer and Carter grow up. In addition, an active lifestyle is de rigueur for this former varsity athlete who now studies the effects of exercise on health here at his alma mater. And as if he needed further incentive, Tanya is an exercise physiologist at the University Health Network in Toronto, where she routinely provides advice about exercise and heart health.

Links between exercise and another growing health problem are the research focus for Graham Holloway. He studies the impact of activity on Type 2 diabetes, which is affecting an ever-larger number of people. "It's a huge problem that's getting worse and worse," he says.

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, more than three million people in this country have diabetes. About nine out of 10 have Type 2 diabetes, which means their body makes too little insulin or uses it ineffectively.

Besides diet and weight control, physical activity is listed as a lifestyle measure to help prevent or delay the onset of the disease.

Holloway studies fuel use and



Prof. Graham Holloway studies the effects of exercise on health and keeps in shape himself as a former varsity athlete. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

storage and the role of mitochondria, or the cell's energy factories. People with diabetes have trouble using fat in skeletal muscle. Without exercise, fat gets stored in the muscles and interferes with insulin operation, he says.

He refers to a 2004 study by HHNS professor Arend Bonen that uncovered the connection between insulin resistance and fat storage in skeletal muscle in people with diabetes. Holloway hopes to learn more about these mechanisms, including how mitochondria break down fats

for energy in skeletal and cardiac muscle.

His work may help physicians and other health practitioners.

"Exercise has an effect on improving the quality of life," he says. "People always look for drugs, but exercise has a more potent effect."

His work involves a range of experiments, from studies of individual mitochondria and muscle fibres to tests of subjects during exercise and aerobic training.

Holloway's research has developed from his PhD studies here with

Prof. Lawrence Spriet and from a Guelph post-doc he held until his faculty appointment last summer. He completed a master's degree at the University of Waterloo and did his undergraduate work in kinesiology at McMaster University.

He'd thought about becoming a physician or clinician, but after a part-time position at a sports medicine clinic, he figured he'd prefer research. "There's a never-ending list of questions," he says — a list that seemed to expand rather than narrow with each successive degree.

Holloway also enjoyed teaching as a grad student. He will teach a lifestyle and genomics course in the fall, as well as a new fourth-year human biology course. He's also team-teaching a PhD course with Spriet and Bonen.

If exercise is such a potent force, why don't more people use it to lessen their chances of acquiring diabetes or other ailments? "You'd have to talk to the Psychology Department for that," he says.

Growing up in Brampton, Holloway played all kinds of sports, especially baseball. He played catcher in 1998 for the Ontario Blue Jays in the American Amateur Baseball Congress, in the same year he was named baseball rookie of the year at McMaster. After playing ball for two years in Hamilton, he switched to volleyball for a year, then returned to baseball at Waterloo.

Today he spends time regularly with exercise equipment — elliptical machine, treadmill, stationary bike — at home in Burlington. He usually gets in a workout four times a week, 45 minutes to an hour at a time. His team sport these days is hockey once a week with other faculty and staff.

At the dinner table, he and Tanya limit red meat, eating plenty of fish and chicken instead and lots of vegetables and fruit.

Does he avoid anything? "I pointedly eat anything. My view on diet is, everything in moderation."

Having kids has only sharpened the point for both of them. "We're no longer choosing just for us. We have a responsibility for what we put in their bodies."

Book Tells Story of Daring Vancouver Project

Urban redevelopment project 'a crazy mixture of hard-nosed pragmatism and utopian dreaming,' says fine art prof

BY LORI BONA HUNT

ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX and daring urban redevelopments in Canada — the Woodward's project in Vancouver — opened this month. And U of G fine art professor Robert Enright was there to witness the historic occasion and launch *Body Heat*, a new book he edited about the project.

Enright, a University research professor in art criticism, wrote the book's introduction and interviewed more than 25 key participants in the project, including community activists, developers, architects, historians, business people, city planners and artists. The book also includes essays by well-known academics on the project's ties to social justice, architecture and art, as well as photographs, memorabilia and architectural drawings.

"The interviews really provide insight into the diversity of issues confronted by the project," says Enright, whose subjects ranged from street people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Canada's poorest postal code, to the city's richest and

most powerful developers.

The \$500-million Woodward's project involved the transformation of once-bustling Woodward's department store in the Downtown Eastside. Its closure in 1993 is said to have contributed to the decline in that part of the city, which over the years became notorious for drug

pushers, homelessness and poverty.

The project takes up an entire city block and is intended to provide living, working and commercial space for people from all walks of life. Two tall towers mix high-end and moderately priced condos with subsidized social housing. Other multi-use buildings house restaurants and

boutiques as well as office, educational and cultural space.

Woodward's will also be home to city and government offices, including the National Film Board and Health Canada, and Simon Fraser University's new Centre for the Performing Arts.

Woodward's residents include

more than 1,000 condo owners and about 400 low-income tenants, some of whom suffer from mental illness and drug addiction.

"Everything about this project is a crazy mixture of hard-nosed pragmatism and utopian dreaming," says Enright. "It has involved a lot of people taking risks."

Student Life Calls for Award Nominations

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for U of G's annual student life awards — the Accessibility Award, the André Auger Citizenship Award, the Brian D. Sullivan Student Leadership Award, the Emilie Hayes Award for Community Partnerships, the Roberta Mason Award and the R.P. Gilmor Student Life Award.

The Accessibility Award recognizes the contributions of U of G community members who remove barriers and create an inclusive environment. Recipients can be students, staff or faculty.

The André Auger Citizenship Award goes to an undergraduate or graduate student who has consistently demonstrated a sense of personal responsibility and commitment to the community.

The Brian D. Sullivan Student Leadership Award is presented to a graduating student who has made significant contributions to student leadership on campus through his or her involvement as an elected or appointed student representative.

The Emilie Hayes Award for Community Partnerships is awarded to a Guelph-Wellington community

member and/or non-profit organization that has partnered with campus staff or faculty to provide an outstanding community service-learning opportunity for U of G students.

The Roberta Mason Award recognizes a student in any semester who, for the first time, has become actively involved in campus life and has made outstanding contributions to a club or organization at the University.

The R.P. Gilmor Award honours individuals or groups who have contributed to the betterment of student

life at U of G. Members of the University are invited to nominate students, staff, faculty, alumni, community members or organizations associated with U of G.

Nominations are being accepted until Feb. 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the Student Life reception desk on Level 3 of the University Centre. For more information and nomination forms, visit www.studentlife.uoguelph.ca/AwardsandRecognition.shtml.

For more information, send email to involve@uoguelph.ca or call Student Life's LEAD adviser, Shannon Thibodeau, at Ext. 54362.

Two Frosties to Go

U of G's twin President's Scholars pace each other in class and on the track

BY REBECCA KENDALL

ST. ANDREWS, N.B., may not have its own McDonald's, a mall or even a stoplight, but the rural community does boast incredible whale-watching, a vibrant summer tourist industry and Lydia and Nadine Frost, U of G's first set of twin President's Scholars.

Now in their second year of study, the Frosties, as they're known to those close to them, were top students at Sir James Dunn Academy in St. Andrews, graduating with averages in the high 90s. But both are also skilled athletes and talented musicians with a record of giving back to their community.

Lydia, who is studying human kinetics, captured a bronze medal at a national track-and-field competition in 2007. Just a week before that, she was in Beijing, China, playing bassoon with the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra. That same year, the orchestra performed at the opening gala for the East Coast Music Awards and took home the award for best classical recording.

She also mentored younger students academically during high school and, as a certified Level 1 track-and-field official and "Run Throw Jump" coach, she encouraged young athletes to excel in sports.

Here at Guelph, Lydia worked last summer with Prof. Lori Vallis, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, on a biomechanics research project that measured the gait of seniors as they walked over an obstacle and performed cognitive tasks.

Nadine, a biological sciences student, was also a member of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra and travelled with the group to Italy and China. As an athlete, she was ranked nationally as a top middle-distance runner and represented the Atlantic region at the North American track-and-field championships. By graduation, she was a registered track coach and was selected by Athletics New Brunswick as one of its leading athlete ambassadors.

She also served as a peer tutor, was a member of Teens Against Drinking and organized a 30-Hour Famine.

Last summer, she worked in the lab of Prof. Chris Hall, Environmental Sciences, setting up methodology for a project that is examining the release rates of pesticides and insecticides in different water formulations.

The Frosties are two of just three students from their graduating class at Sir James Dunn who left the East Coast to attend university. For them, there was never any question about whether they'd go to the same university. There also wasn't much question about which school they would choose.

"We started hearing about U of G's track-and-field team winning national banners," says Nadine, "and at first we were like, 'Where's Guelph?'"

They did some research and started talking to Dave Scott-Thomas, U of G's head coach of cross-country and track and field. The sisters visited U of G when they were in Grade 11 to meet with him.

They made quite an impression on him.

"After we met, I went home and said to my wife: 'Man, I really hope they come here,'" says Scott-Thomas. "I knew they'd fit in great and that they'd be fun to work with."



The commitment that Nadine, left, and Lydia Frost showed to serving as role models and mentors for younger students in high school has continued here at Guelph.

Three years later, Nadine and Lydia haven't disappointed.

"They're focused, they're talented, they're trustworthy, they're tough and they're national-class athletes," says Scott-Thomas, adding that the Frosties are the first set of twin female runners he's coached in his 13-year career at Guelph. "They're serious about what they want to do, but they still have a good time with it. You don't always see that in sports. They're a coach's dream. I've got three young daughters, and if they grow up to be like Lydia and Nadine, I'm going to be a really happy dad."

Last year was a successful rookie year for Nadine, who was a 1,500-metre finalist at the Francophone Games and a first-team All-Canadian and is now the third-ranked 1,500-metre runner in Canada. She also helped the Gryphons capture gold at nationals as part of the 4X800-metre relay team. This team, whose other members were Rachel Aubrey, Jess Vanhie and Lindsay Carson, also captured a new U of G record for this race.

Lydia also excelled athletically in her first year at Guelph and was a first-team All-Canadian. As a member of Athletics New Brunswick, an association that considers members to be run-

ning on behalf of New Brunswick even while competing on teams outside the province, she captured the provincial record in New Brunswick for the 1,000 metres (indoor).

So what do they owe their success to? They say that coming from a supportive small town was key because all the young people participated in every available activity.

"We did pretty much everything we could because our school was so small," says Nadine. "There were about 170 kids from grades 7 to 12 in our town. Our population was about the same as that of South Residences, so it was a very different upbringing. Our parents had to do a lot of driving to get us to places to do all the things we wanted to do."

Adds Lydia: "There weren't enough students in our school to have cliques. There weren't enough of us to have only sporty people on the teams or only drama people in the theatre productions, so you had to fill a lot of roles."

The Frosties say another key to their success in high school was their fierce competitiveness with each other, which drove them to constantly do better each time.

"We started doing track in Grade 3 because we knew we'd get one Friday off for a track meet," says Lydia. "Then we discovered we were pretty good at it, and we enjoyed training and competition. I'd win one, then Nadine would win one, then I'd win one, and it went back and forth like that. We were very competitive. It has mellowed down since then."

Despite their past sibling rivalry, they now view themselves as a team, and when it came to choosing a university, there was no doubt they'd make this journey together.

"It would have been extremely difficult for me to leave home and be here by myself," says Nadine. "It was such an easy transition because I had half of my home life with me."

The commitment Lydia and Nadine showed to serving as role models and mentors for younger students in high school has

continued here at Guelph. For the past year, they've been volunteering with the Kidsfest Running and Reading Club, an organization whose executive director is former Olympian runner and U of G graduate Sylvia Ruegger. Locally, the program runs fitness and literacy programming at Willow Road Public School.

The twins also visit schools to speak on behalf of Believe to Achieve, an outreach program that aims to inspire youth to work hard and achieve their goals. In addition, they serve as mentors to younger members of the Speed River track-and-field team.

"It's nice to be viewed as a role model for kids because when I was a kid, I found role models to be so important," says Nadine.

For Lydia, the best part of community service is seeing the excitement of the kids and watching them progress toward their goals.

"It's incredible to begin to see all the things you've been working with them on all year finally come together. That's when you know you've made a difference."

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWABE

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DISASTER AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DEVELOPMENT MORE PEOPLE-CENTRED

As happened with the Asian tsunami a couple of years ago, hundreds of millions of dollars will be raised for the earthquake victims in Haiti. And there is no reason to think we will fail to respond with similar generosity when the next natural disaster strikes with similar intensity of impact.

I teach a course on disaster planning and management. In the last few days, I have had a chance to discuss and reflect on the tragedy in Haiti with the students who took my course in the fall.

One of the ideals in disaster planning that we argue for but that has never drawn serious attention is to use disaster as an opportunity to enable communities to regain control of their lives and their future and to regain the capacity to support themselves with dignity. A disaster of this magnitude, we argue, creates an opportunity for redirecting development towards a more people-centred course.

The *New York Times* reported last week that thousands of earthquake survivors are migrating back to their hometowns and villages, where "flowers pink as cherry bubblegum climbed fences by the road . . ." But the countryside also shows the effects of colonialism, corporate greed and government corruption — lack of green cover and impoverished soils. Only two per cent of Haiti is forested. The lush forests in the neighbouring Dominican Republic tell us this doesn't have to be so.

Here is an opportunity for the U of G community to make a difference for the long term. Let's use some of the funds we raise to develop an action plan for recovering and enriching Haiti's rural resources.

Guelph has experts in land-use planning, rural development, rural extension, agriculture, farming systems, forestry and forest products, tourism and business development, to name a few. Let's use some of the funds to apply this array of expertise to develop a credible and cost-effective action plan for a sustainable Haiti.

Such a plan could be submitted to the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre and the Canadian Council for International Co-operation to help the Canadian government and non-governmental organizations establish a Haiti program that would enable people to work the land again, run their own businesses and sustain themselves in the countryside.

Prof. Nonita Yap

School of Environmental Design and Rural Development

WOMEN'S STUDIES HAS SERVED STUDENTS FROM ACROSS UNIVERSITY FOR 30 YEARS

On CBC's *The Current* Jan. 12, during a segment on women's studies, Prof. Serge Desmarais, associate vice-president (academic), stated that in the last five years, the women's studies program at Guelph "had fewer than 25 students in the program, which means on average each year between five and, say, eight students maximum registered for the program."

This had the unfortunate effect of suggesting, especially with the use of "students" instead of "majors" and in the absence of the word "new" — five to eight "new" students — that the program served a handful of students and so perhaps deserved to be cut.

In the past five years from 2005 to 2009, the number of majors in women's studies was 20, 28, 25, 25 and 35 (25 before the University started cancelling the program). If you include minors and areas of concentration (for students doing a three-year degree) — and those students, too, are registered in the program, after all — the figures are 33, 49, 46, 47 and 54.

In response to *The Current* segment, one women's studies graduate wrote me: "I did a three-year degree, so women's studies counted as an area of concentration. Almost every one of the 30 courses I took related in some way, shape or form to women's studies, but my degree didn't 'count' in the number crunching that served to decimate the program I hold so dear."

For those who may not be aware of this, even after the cancellation of the program, our "Introduction to Women's Studies" remains, I believe, the largest intro course in the College of Arts, with more than 400 students. The second-year course "Women and Representation" is similarly always oversubscribed, with close to 200 students.

For 30 years, women's studies at U of G has served increasingly large numbers of students from all across the University, including students in engineering, math, fine art and economics. As the subject becomes a "teachable" in high schools, there will be even more demand.

Prof. Helen Hoy

English and Theatre Studies and Women's Studies

Co-ordinator of Women's Studies, 1995 to 2002

GUILLAUME BLAIS

Third-year biomedical sciences student

Guillaume Blais has always loved the Olympics. "I remember being late for classes in high school because I was watching the Olympic Games and couldn't tear myself away," he says.

This year, he won't have to tear himself away because he'll be in the thick of things as a volunteer at the Vancouver Winter Games Feb. 15 to March 2.

Blais applied for a volunteer position at the Games almost a year ago and learned he'd been accepted in July. He's paying his own flight costs and will be staying with a friend. Olympics organizers will provide a uniform and meals while he's working.

Although Blais didn't get the venues he asked for, "I'll be taking tickets at the arena where both the men's and women's hockey games are played, and I'll be there for the gold and bronze rounds." Ticket-takers, he's been assured, do get to watch the competitions.

He'll be working nine-hour shifts for 13 straight days, and he's looking forward to being able to immerse himself in the Games.

"In the past, the Olympics would distract me from school or work or whatever else I was supposed to be doing. I think it will be so much better to be there and not trying to live my regular life at the same time."

One week of his trip out west falls during U of G's Reading Week, but Blais says his professors have been supportive in helping him figure out how to make up the work he'll miss in the second week.

Before he heads for Vancouver, he hopes to connect with any other U of G faculty, staff or students also planning to help out at the Games.

"I'll be doing a blog on my experiences, and I hope if others are going, they'll contribute to the blog, too. Sure, everyone can watch the Games on TV, but the first-hand experiences of people who are there on the ground offer a different perspective."

Other volunteers can contact him at gblais@uoguelph.ca. His blog can be found at guelphatthegames.wordpress.com.



Guillaume Blais

"But perhaps growing up in that environment made me believe that gardening is just something you have to do, because that's how it feels to me."

To make his property more environmentally friendly, Teesdale is converting the grassy areas to gardens with more drought-tolerant plants suitable for this part of Ontario. In addition, he has a large vegetable garden that he harvests to stock his freezer. "I also made 50 litres of tomato juice this year," he says.

Teesdale sees his increasingly sustainable gardening as an ongoing project.

"You don't want to do it all at once and be done. It's the process that's enjoyable, doing a little bit each year to make it better."

Another ongoing effort for Teesdale is his participation in the Donor for Life program of the Canadian Blood Services. For the past five years, he's been donating blood as often as he can — about every eight weeks.

"When my dad had cancer, there were a couple of times that he needed blood, so this seemed like a way I could pay back the system a bit. It's a more personal contribution than giving money. My dad has passed on now, and I'm glad to be able to continue doing this."

SUSAN DOUGLAS

Faculty member in the School of Fine Art and Music since 1998

"I was raised in Argentina, so I had tango culture all around me," says Prof. Susan Douglas. Even so, she didn't get seriously involved in dancing until about four years ago. And although her first steps were in tango, she soon added ballroom and other Latin dances (such as cha cha cha and rumba) and salsa to her repertoire.

Douglas notes that dancing isn't just good exercise. Research suggests that it may also help prevent Alzheimer's disease because "it gets both the body and the mind working together. Of course, that's not the reason people take up dancing. It's a passion for music, rhythm and movement that motivates you."

Getting started in social dancing was easier than she'd expected. "It's just average people, people of all ages, and at first everyone feels like a klutz together. If you don't have a partner, that's fine. Dance classes are interesting because they create a context to meet new people in a relaxed environment."

In fact, Douglas met her partner while learning to dance. They now practise once a week, take lessons twice a week and enjoy social dancing most weekends. That might seem like a lot of time devoted to gliding across the floor, but "all the dancers dance this much," she says.

She and her partner are working towards dancing competitively, but Douglas's recent back injury — nothing to do with dancing, she says — has slowed them down a little. But not much.

"This was something I'd always wanted to do, and I'm so glad I finally did," she says. "Dancing is a fabulous complement to academic work. It's relaxing yet energizing, and it keeps you very fit. No matter how tired you are when you go in to start dancing, you come out feeling amazing and saying: 'Wow, I want more of that.'"



Susan Douglas



Bill Teesdale

BILL TEESDALE

IT support and manager of the accelerator facility in the Department of Physics, joined U of G in 1986

Bill Teesdale is a big proponent of sustainable gardening. "I recently acquired a small backyard greenhouse where I can start my own seeds," he says.

In a way, he's come full circle because his parents had a greenhouse business when he was growing up. Although he had expected to eventually take over the business, his father encouraged him to attend university instead.

OVC Launches Mini-Vet School

Program offers crash course in veterinary medicine for public

FOR SOME ANIMAL OWNERS, the questions can be endless: How do veterinarians make diagnoses? What's normal? What do I do when an emergency strikes?

The answers to these questions and more will be available to animal lovers at the inaugural OVC Mini-Vet School, where Ontario Veterinary College faculty will present classes on topics from the small (parasites) to the large (the equine athlete).

In fact, everything you ever wanted to know about cats, dogs, horses and herds will be covered in a series of four sessions with two classes per evening, starting Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at OVC.

Designed for pet owners, the general public and those aspiring to a career in the veterinary profession, the classes will be fun and informative and will include sessions on body systems, emergency medicine, public health and more.

The OVC Mini-Vet School is a fundraiser for Global Vets to help send current DVM students to Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia and Mexico this summer to do veterinary relief work. Global Vets participants are organizing and running the school.

Cost of the program is \$100 if you register before Feb. 1 and \$125 afterward. Space is limited. For more information, send email to gvets@uoguelph.ca or visit the website www.uoguelph.ca/gvets.

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The Man Inside the Bunny Suit

From biomarkers used in transaction IDs to Facebook use, business prof looks at privacy and security concerns

BY TERESA PITMAN

HE WAS THE ENERGIZER BUNNY twice in parades and suffered heat stroke once as a result. Not quite what you'd expect to see on the CV of a newly arrived faculty member in the Department of Business, but Prof. Michael Breward explains that the bunny gig was just an added bonus of his former job as director of finance and information systems for Energizer Canada.

"Energizer was a great company to work for, and it was fun to be the bunny," he says, "although I didn't like the heat stroke part."

It was while studying for his bachelor of commerce degree at Queen's University that Breward first began to think he'd like to work in academia. But he'd already mapped out a career path for himself that included becoming a chartered accountant and then earning an MBA. After graduating from Queen's, he spent the next few years working as an accountant and a controller, earning his CMA along the way. Eventually, he joined Energizer, first as manager of financial planning and analysis. But within a few years of being promoted to director, he began to feel restless.

"I'd achieved what I wanted to do, and now I realized I wanted to do something more than budgeting or financial reporting for the next 30 years. I remembered my old dreams, and my wife said: 'Why don't you get your PhD?'"

Breward recalls that he protested that they'd have to give up their house and change their lives, and his wife's response was: "So?"

He enrolled at McMaster University and earned his PhD in management information systems. His wife, Katherine, is now in her second year of a PhD program herself and is a sessional instructor at U of G.

For his thesis, Breward studied security and information systems and sought to answer the question: How open are consumers to the use



"It's just too much fun," says Prof. Michael Breward of his new faculty post.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

of biometrics for identification at ATMs and in other financial transactions? Biometrics refers to methods of recognizing people through unique biological markers such as fingerprints and the iris of the eye.

Previous research had found that consum-

ers tend to keep concepts of security and privacy separate in their mind, but Breward's study found that, when it comes to biometrics, people see security and privacy as closely related.

"The idea of biometrics generates such a

visceral gut reaction that people don't separate privacy and security," he says. "They recognize that they may have to give up some privacy to secure their financial assets, but biometric techniques scare them. And that's real. You can't just dismiss people's fears."

Currently, Breward is looking at another area of privacy and security: what people post on Facebook.

"I'm trying to capture some data on whether people who use Facebook are aware of how the site is used by other parts of society, including employers. Then I want to look at whether being educated about this will affect their attitudes and their use of Facebook."

He notes that many schools and companies prescreen candidates by checking Facebook pages, and many employers routinely view their employees' pages to see what's been posted.

"I've heard horror stories about people who lost job opportunities because of their Facebook pages."

Having gathered some preliminary data, Breward wants to study these issues with a larger group that would include high school students, university students and the general public.

Other projects he's involved in include writing teaching cases. "A teaching case tells a story and presents a problem, and students have to look for solutions," he explains.

He and his wife recently wrote a case on non-profit governance and how to evaluate an organization before joining its board. The case is being used in a competition and should be published soon.

And just as he suspected all those years ago when he was studying at Queen's, Breward is finding that he loves teaching.

"This is the best job I've ever had," he says. "I completely understand why some academics never fully retire. It's just too much fun."

How to Grow a Lovely Bunch of Hazelnuts

From plant agriculture to business, Guelph experts aim to help grow new hazelnut industry from scratch

BY ANDREW VOWLES

SIX THOUSAND TONNES is a lot of hazelnuts — and a lot of Ferrero Rocher chocolates. That's how many nuts arrive from Turkey every year to fill the popular confection made by Ferrero Canada Inc. at its Brantford plant.

Now a handful of U of G faculty members hope a fledgling research project will help develop a made-in-Ontario hazelnut industry to supply the company and more.

Along with Ferrero Canada, nut growers and other agencies, Guelph plant scientists working in three southern Ontario locations have teamed up with a business professor on campus to develop nut varieties and write a business case for cultivating a homegrown nut industry, more or less from scratch.

Currently, farmers grow only about 50 acres of hazelnuts here. But Prof. Adam Dale, Plant Agriculture, hopes to see up to 15,000 acres devoted to the crop, including former tobacco land in southern Ontario.

All going well — and the project faces a number of hurdles — those nuts would supply that big chocolate

maker in Brantford as well as other markets from grocery stores to makers of candies, nut pastes and other products.

"I'm excited," says Dale, who works at U of G's Simcoe Research Centre and has studied berry crops since 1983. Six years ago, he began breeding disease-resistant chestnuts.

Shortly after that, he started talking about hazelnuts with officials at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

In 2008, he received almost \$90,000 in provincial funding to start variety trials at Simcoe. Besides testing cultivars for hardiness, he is seeking varieties able to withstand a fungus that causes eastern filbert blight (filberts are another name for hazelnuts).

"That takes a heavy toll," says Bruce Thurston, president of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers, which represents about 350 growers in southern Ontario and is a partner in the hazelnut project.

Thurston grows various kinds of nuts, including hazelnuts, on 12 acres of a 75-acre farm in St. George. "If we can come up with blight-resistant trees, that will be a benefit."

Dale will also test yearly crop consistency and — a critical question — which varieties meet quality standards for a Ferrero Rocher chocolate. He aims to double the size of Simcoe's plot to test more varieties. And he plans to grow cultivars at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

Dale will start the trees through micropropagation at Guelph. He'll work with Prof. Praveen Saxena, Plant Agriculture, whose tissue culture techniques will produce test-tube plants for faster, easier propagation.

Normally farmers retrieve root suckers from existing trees — perhaps 15 from a tree — for new planting. Micropropagation will allow the researchers to reap hundreds of offspring.

"My role in this project is to develop in vitro production systems of this important crop," says Saxena. "My lab's technology has great potential for creating plants with larger yields, disease resistance and perhaps enhanced levels of phytochemicals that may not only add to flavours but also enrich the nutritional status."

The plant agriculture professors

will share a graduate student for this project. Dale will also share a student with Hannah Mathers, an Ohio State University professor who is a senior research fellow at Vineland and an adjunct professor at U of G.

At Vineland, the researchers plan to study technology — including growing techniques and retractable-roof greenhouses — to produce hazelnut trees more quickly and efficiently.

"There aren't a lot of trees around, so we need to speed up the process," says Mathers.

Hazelnuts are native to southern Ontario. The nuts grow in clusters on the shrub, which reaches about eight feet high. The shrubs normally take about six years to mature.

Turkey produces about 80 per cent of the world's hazelnuts. They're also grown in Europe, the United States and British Columbia.

"There's an opportunity for tree fruit growers," says Dale. "Anybody growing tree fruit would be a natural for hazelnuts, as well as all that tobacco acreage. We have the knowledge and the acreage."

His technician, Dragan Galic, and Todd Leuty, an OMAFRA agro-

forestry specialist, are writing a production guide for growers.

Growing hazelnuts is one thing, but can producers make money?

To help answer that question, the researchers enlisted Prof. Elliott Currie, Business, who has analyzed business prospects for a variety of crops and products. "We think it's probably a go," he says.

Currie's computer-based model, which he plans to share with growers, includes assumptions about prices, costs and yields. He figures nut growers would need to plant at least 10 acres to make money and be willing to invest for perhaps six years before reaping a crop.

Having a large prospective customer helps reduce some risk, says Currie. "Many businesses start not knowing whether they will have enough customers."

Referring to former tobacco farms, he adds: "You're also converting low-productive land into something productive that may be incredibly profitable."

Dale says growers could make about \$1,000 an acre or about two or three times as much as corn or soybeans.

Paint by Microbes

Biologists use bacteria to make works of art

BY ANDREW VOWLES

IN THE LAB of Prof. Ryan Gregory, Integrative Biology, staining microbes has taken on a whole new meaning. He and his lab members are using bacteria to create works of art.

They're not alone. Far from being a mad scientist's pursuit, bacterial art has attracted both scientists and artists to experiment with microbial media. This crossover art form even has deep roots running all the way back to Sir Alexander Fleming, the Nobel Prize-winning discoverer of penicillin.

An artist profile on Gregory's website "Microbial Art" (www.microbialart.com) says Fleming was one of the first scientists to use microbes to create works of art. His "Germ Paintings" series used living bacteria with different pigment colours.

"I find that intriguing," says Gregory, whose lab is among more than a dozen examples listed on the website, which was launched in October and has since earned a mention in the journal *Science*.

He says creating art in a Petri dish provides a different view of workaday microbes used in his and other biology labs across campus. It's also a way to bridge art and science — a preoccupation for a growing number of campus members, including devotees of discipline-straddling events held by the Arts, Science and Technology Research Alliance.

It was another recent campus project combining art and science that sparked Gregory's interest. He was co-organizer of last semester's Darwin art show, which included creations from his lab. Among the pieces were depictions of Darwin

and his ship, *HMS Beagle*, the Galapagos Islands; the feathered fossil reptile *Archaeopteryx*; and "Lucy," a fossil hominid believed to be the ancestor of modern humans. Besides Gregory, the artists were his grad students Joao Lima, Tyler Elliott, Paola Pierossi and Nick Jeffery plus John Wilson, a PhD student of Prof. Paul Hiebert.

Using paintbrushes and a liquid suspension of *E. coli*, they outlined their pieces on coloured growth medium in Petri dishes.

Gregory says the results were popular among visitors to the Darwin show, which displayed varied artworks in lab and office windows surrounding the science complex atrium. "There was always somebody standing outside the lab."

Lab members plan to experiment with different-coloured media and microbes, including use of engineered *E. coli* strains bearing light-up genes to glow in various hues. They also hope to add fungi to their microbial paintbox.

At some point, Gregory started looking for other examples. It didn't take long to find both scientists and artists working with this medium. Some "paint" with microbes as he does. Others use agar to grow colonies of bacteria that spread into complex patterns.

"For us as scientists, it's enjoyable to have an outlet that's not so distant from every day but is artistically creative. Science is a creative process, but we don't always express it this way."

He and his lab mates-turned-artists are hardly looking to create enduring masterpieces. Their paintings incubate quickly, but "they're pretty ephemeral — they last only a few days," he says.



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held at the end of the semester for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by Jan. 29 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@excc.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039. The following people correctly reported that the Jan. 13 photo was of the bus shelters in front of the University Centre: Olga Petrik, Kamran Haq, John Van Manen and Ray Hutchison.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

Guelph Organic Conference Runs Jan. 28 to 31 on Campus

Experts to discuss values, ethics of organic production

ORGANIC IS GREEN, but is it good? Following adoption last year of new organic standards in Canada, experts will discuss the values and ethics of organic production during the 2010 Guelph Organic Conference Jan. 28 to 31 on campus.

"Our Canadian Organic Identity" is the theme of the 29th annual conference, expo and tasting fair.

The conference will feature more than 30 workshops and some 150 trade show exhibitors in the University Centre.

Workshop topics will include organic production and certification, climate change, farmland protection

and food security.

Keynote speaker is author Margaret Webb, who captured a silver award at the 2009 Cuisine Canada Book Awards for *Apples to Oysters: A Food Lover's Tour of Canadian Farms*. She will discuss organic food and a national food policy Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. in Rozanski Hall. Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered on the conference website.

Webb will also be a panellist at the Guelph Public Forum Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. in Room 1200 of the Thornbrough Building. Discussion will focus on "Organic Values and Ethics Versus the Goals of a Competitive Marketplace."

Also on the panel are Dag Falck, program manager with Nature's Path Foods based in Richmond, B.C.; Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield Farm in New Hampshire; and Maureen Giffen, owner-operator of Edencrest Farms north of Barrie. Admission to the forum is \$10 at the door.

The Organic Trade Association in Canada and Stonyfield Farm host a special showing of *Food, Inc.*, a 2009 movie about the North American food industry, Jan. 28 at 8:45 p.m. at the Bookshelf Cinema.

For more information, call Ext. 56205 or visit www.guelphorganic.conf.ca.

MacMillan Laureate Honours Contributions to Agriculture

Continued from page 1

monies for the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS) begins at 10 a.m. with Barnes receiving an honorary doctorate of science and giving the convocation address. A distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Colorado, he was instrumental in introducing a revolutionary master's program in interdisciplinary telecommunications. The program, which was built on the concept that future engineers would need not only a mastery of technical details but also an appreciation for policy and business aspects of industry, has been modelled by institutions nationwide.

Bartleman will receive an honor-

ary doctorate of laws and address the graduands at the second CSAHS ceremony at 1 p.m. While serving as Ontario's lieutenant-governor from 2002 to 2007, he was dedicated to reducing the stigma of mental illness, fighting racism and discrimination, and promoting literacy among aboriginal youth.

Prior to this role, he had a distinguished career spanning 35 years in the Canadian Foreign Service, holding the highest Foreign Service rank of any Canadian aboriginal person. He also became one of the most respected advisers in Canadian international affairs.

Bilyea will receive the MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture and address

students graduating from the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College at the 4 p.m. ceremony. Now an independent consultant, he was formerly the executive vice-president of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. and president of Maple Leaf Foods International. Under his leadership, Maple Leaf entered the specialized bakery business in Europe and became the largest exporter of food in Canada.

Bilyea currently serves as deputy chair of the science advisory board of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is a board member of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, and is a member of the Canadian Prior Research Network.

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For more information,
see Guelph's hazardous weather policy at
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Partially furnished lower level of condo, shared front entrance, large spacious main room with fireplace, small galley kitchen/laundry room, private bath, prefer mature female, close to bus route and campus, no smoking, no pets (must love dogs), available May 1, \$650 a month inclusive, elayne.starr@gmail.com.

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EVENTS

COLLOQUIUM

The School of Languages and Literatures and the TransCanada Institute present "Convergences XIX" Autour de *L'Impasse* de Paul Bonnetain" Jan. 29 from noon to 5:30 p.m. at 9 University Ave. E.

CONCERT

The Thursday at Noon concert series presents a Creative Music Festival/Symposium featuring Profs. Ellen Waterman and James Harley, Fine Art and Music, Feb. 11 at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

FILM

"Docurama," a free film series sponsored by the U of G Library and the Central Student Association, presents *The Cove* Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in Thornborough 1200.

LECTURE

The Department of Philosophy presents Colin Allen of Indiana University Bloomington discussing "Reasoning Without Words: Narrowing the Gap Between Humans and Animals" Jan. 29 at 3:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 309.

NOTICES

Applications are being accepted until Feb. 12 from students interested in giving this year's Last Lecture. The Last Lecture was designed to give graduating students an opportunity to reflect on their time at U of G. For an application form, go to www.studentlife.uoguelph.ca/LastLecture.shtml.

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic is offering a five-session better sleep program beginning Feb. 5 at noon in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers or call Ext. 52662.

The U of G varsity figure skating team holds its fourth winter ice show Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. at the Gryphon Sports Centre. Admission is \$5 at the door. A free recreational skate will follow the show. Part of the proceeds will be donated to Right to Play Canada. Food bank donations are also welcome.

The Improvisation, Community and Social Practice project hosts

"Thinking Spaces," a reading group, Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 132. For more information, send email to rcaines@uoguelph.ca.

The Wellness Centre's Acceptance Without Limits group is hosting its first event aimed at educating and promoting awareness of issues related to body image. It runs Feb. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the UC courtyard. For more information, call Ext. 53327 or send email to askinner@uoguelph.ca.

No Wrong Notes is seeking U of G women who love to sing. This is a non-auditioned, non-performing group open to women of all levels of singing ability and experience. It meets once a week at noon. For more information, send email to Maryann at mkoep@uoguelph.ca.

SEMINARS

The ASTRA seminar series presents College of Arts dean Don Bruce discussing "Cyrano de Bergerac: How Did the Bold Free Thinker of the 17th Century Become the Unhappy Long-Nosed Lover of the 19th Century?" Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 317.

"What Does Animal Welfare Science Need From Definitions of Pain and Emotion?" is the topic of Colin Allen of Indiana University Bloomington in the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare's animal behaviour and welfare seminar series Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 141.

Derek Lynch, Canada Research Chair in Organic Agriculture at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and Ralph Martin, director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, are guest speakers in the organic agriculture seminar series Jan. 28. They will explore "Environmental Benefits, Research Directions and the Growing Market for Organics" at 4 p.m. in Richards 124.

Next up in the Department of Pathobiology seminar series Jan. 29 is Andrijana Rajic of the Public Health Agency of Canada discussing "Research Synthesis: Opportunities and Challenges for Interdisciplinary Collaboration." The series continues Feb. 5 with Krista Power of the Guelph Food Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, explaining "Phytoestrogens and Estrogen Receptor Signalling in Women's Health" and Feb. 12 with

Veronika von Messling of the University of Quebec describing "Immune Responses to Influenza: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." The seminars begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

The Department of Integrative Biology presents Heather Eisthen of Michigan State University discussing "How Many Vertebrates Does It Take to Change a Bulb? Functional Consequences of Olfactory System Evolution" Feb. 2. On Feb. 9, the topic is "Evolution and Development of the Gene Network Underlying Winged and Wingless Castes of the Hyperdiverse and Genus *Pheidole*" with Ehab Abouheif of McGill University. The seminars are at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

The Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology seminar series continues Feb. 3 with Prof. Paul Hebert, Canada Research Chair and director of the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, describing "A Census of All Life." On Feb. 10, Morag Park, scientific director of the CIHR Institute of Cancer Research, focuses on "The Met RIK: Internalization, Trafficking and Tumorigenesis." The talks begin at 12:30 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 156.

"The Brockhouse Sector" is the focus of Prof. Stefan Kyica in the Department of Physics seminar series Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 101.

Café Scientifique, a series of discussions hosted by the School of Environmental Sciences, continues Feb. 9 with Prof. Noella Gray, Geography, discussing "Ecotourism: More Harm Than Good?" at 7 p.m. at Diana Downtown.

Café Philosophique, hosted by the College of Arts in collaboration with the Bookshelf, presents Prof. Matthew Hayday, History, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf eBar. His topic is "Olympic Gold! International Achievement and Canada's Changing Identity."

Entomologist John Borden, chief scientific officer at Contech Enterprises Inc., is guest speaker for a seminar being hosted by NSERC-CANPOLIN and the School of Environmental Sciences Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. in Graham 3301. He will discuss "The SuperBoost Saga: Development of a New Product Based on the Honeybee Brood Pheromone."

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for the following Teaching Support Services events can be found at www.tss.uoguelph.ca. If you have questions, call Mary Nairn at Ext. 53571.

On Jan. 29, TSS hosts a Graduate Student Winter Teaching Workshop for grad students interested in university teaching. Mahejabeen Ebrahim, associate director of the Human Rights and Equity Office, will present "Inclusive Teaching and Academic Integrity." U of G judicial officer Philip Zachariah will discuss academic misconduct.

Upcoming "Learning Circle" discussion groups include "Engaging in Education Research" Feb. 3, "Community Engaged Teaching and Learning" Feb. 4 and "Teaching on the Edge" Feb. 9.

TSS offers a graduate student workshop on "Individual Consultations and Dealing With Difficult Situations" Feb. 15.

For instructors wanting to use Desire2Learn (D2L), TSS offers "D2L Starter Kit" Feb. 5.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of Peter Lau, a PhD candidate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, is Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m. in Rozanski 106. The thesis is "Microscopical Characterization and Correlation of Structural and Mechanical Properties in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Biofilms: The Importance of Lipopolysaccharide and Alginate." The advisers were Profs. Terry Beveridge and Joe Lam.

The final examination of PhD candidate Chris Trobacher, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, is Jan. 29 at 1 p.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "Regulation of Programmed Cell Death in Tomato Endosperm and the Involvement of a Ricin- α somal Cysteine Proteinase." The adviser is Prof. John Greenwood.

The final examination of Veronica Kos, a PhD candidate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, is Feb. 4 at 9:30 a.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "Biosynthesis and Export of the D-galactan 1 O-antigen of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*." The adviser is Prof. Chris Whitfield.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph holds its annual Have a Heart for Kids Sake gala fundraiser Feb. 6 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Italian Canadian Club. The evening will include dinner, live and silent auctions, games and dancing. For ticket information, call 519-824-5154, send email to info@bbbsg.ca or visit www.bbbsg.ca.

Guelph Youth Singers host the fundraiser "Come and Dance the Night Away" Jan. 30 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Bullring. For ticket information, call 519-821-8574.

The Exhibition Park Neighbourhood Group's annual Winterfest is Feb. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. The afternoon will feature skating, crafts, face painting, music and refreshments.

The Guelph Youth Music Centre presents family recording artist Markus Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m. For ticket information, call 519-837-1119 or visit www.gymc.ca.

A concert to raise funds for Haiti earthquake relief will be held Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the River Run Centre. Tickets are \$30 per person. For ticket information, call 519-763-3000 or visit www.riverrun.ca.

The Edward Johnson Music Foundation hosts its annual fundraising gala, "Fever — Red and White and Hot All Over," Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. at the River Run Centre. For tickets, call 519-763-3000.

Women of all ages are invited to share in singing four-part a capella harmony with the Over Tones. The group will hold a membership drive and offer a vocal lesson Feb. 15 and 22 at 7 p.m. at the Elliott Community Room, 170 Metcalfe St. RSVP to overtones@rogers.com.

The Guelph Symphony Orchestra celebrates the music of love and romance Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. at the River Run Centre. Concert-goers can also join a dinner excursion aboard the Guelph Junction Express at 5:30 p.m. The deadline to reserve a place on the dinner trip is Feb. 5. For tickets, call 519-763-3000.

Bruce Leeming, director of Friends of Ile à Vache Haiti, is giving a presentation to raise funds for Haitian economic development projects Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. at Guelph Place.

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Student Sara Wicks will take the environmental message to a global gathering in Qatar next month.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

Reduce the Juice

International development student leads group aiming to reduce energy consumption

BY REBECCA KENDALL

IN JUST A FEW WEEKS, U of G student Sara Wicks will be standing in front of a crowd of teenagers at an elite private school halfway around the globe. Her purpose? To encourage youth to take a stand for the environment.

It's something she's been doing for the past five years in Ontario, but Wicks will soon take her message to an international audience as a presenter and workshop leader at a teen conference in Qatar March 11 to 13.

The opportunity to spread the

environmental message in the Middle East is one that Wicks, a fourth-year international development student, never dreamed was possible when she first joined Reduce the Juice, a small youth-driven non-profit organization that encourages people to reduce their energy consumption and develop initiatives for green power projects.

It was 2006, and she was a senior at Westside Secondary School in Orangeville who just wanted to make a difference and encourage people to reduce their energy consumption. Today, Wicks is the

group's project manager and has played a key role in developing and executing several projects in the Waterloo region and Dufferin County, as well as raising public awareness about climate-change solutions throughout Ontario.

Over the past few years, Reduce the Juice has received some \$250,000 from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario to support its projects.

"The opportunities I've had to learn and to advocate for simple behavioural changes that reduce the impact on the environment have

See GROUP on page 10

Changing With the Times

Communications and Public Affairs to launch fully online information service

BY LORI BONA HUNT

THE WAY THE COMMUNITY learns about what's going on at U of G will be changing in April. New features on the University's website will include "people" stories, photos and, eventually, video news stories, and *At Guelph* will cease publication after April 7.

"Many of the features that people look for in the newspaper, such as profiles of faculty, staff and students, will be incorporated into this new generation of *At Guelph*," says Chuck Cunningham, director of Communications and Public Affairs

(C&PA).

He adds that the change is a result of numerous factors, including technological advances, evolving community expectations and behaviours, and staff retirements and budget reductions.

"Over the years, technology has changed the way we deliver information to the University community," says Cunningham. "People expect to get news and information about the University on a daily basis and often via the web, so we've been communicating much of U of G's news this way in addition to publishing the newspaper."

As a result, by the time *At Guelph* is produced every two weeks, many of its stories have already appeared on the University's website, he says.

"We've been evaluating the newspaper's future for some time now. In the past two years especially, we've had a number of suggestions from the U of G community to eliminate the paper as part of our efforts to save money and 'go green.'"

In addition, *At Guelph* editor Barbara Chance and publications assistant Linda Graham, two C&PA staff members who are key to the newspaper's production, are retiring

See NEWS on page 10

NSERC Supports Sustainability

Guelph receives \$2.2 million for five research projects

BY LORI BONA HUNT

UOF G HAS RECEIVED more than \$2.2 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for five strategic team research projects centred around sustainability.

"These awards highlight U of G's strength, leadership and dedication to research that produces real solutions to real-life issues," says Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research).

"The innovations that will result from the projects supported by NSERC will help create healthier environments and ecosystems and sustainable energy, which are important to enhancing scientific discovery and to Canadian society and its economy."

The funding comes from NSERC's strategic projects grants

program, which supports established research programs in targeted areas, including healthy environments and ecosystems, quality food, sustainable energy systems and advanced communication and information management. Each project is supported for three years.

Prof. Liz Boulding is one of three faculty in the Department of Integrative Biology to receive funding. She was awarded \$563,588 for her work on genomic selection and mapping of Atlantic salmon populations.

"My collaborators and I hope this will allow us to take ecologically sustainable aquaculture to the next level by using information from genetic markers coupled with traditional animal breeding to produce faster-growing and more disease-resistant fish."

See NSERC on page 10

Leave for Change a Win-Win Program

APUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION will be held Feb. 17 for people interested in learning more about Leave for Change, a U of G-sponsored program that gives regular full-time staff and faculty an opportunity to volunteer their expertise during short assignments in developing countries. The session runs from noon to 1:15 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre.

Leave for Change is offered through Unitera, a joint initiative of World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the Centre for International Studies and Co-operation. Unitera mobilizes people and organizations in Canada and the developing world to reduce poverty by achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Under the Leave for Change program, Canadian volunteers are assigned overseas for two to four weeks. This allows a limited number of qualified employees from participating organizations to transform their vacation time into short international assignments with well-defined tasks and the support of development professionals in the host country.

"Leave for Change is an opportu-

nity for U of G staff to share their skills and acquire knowledge of markets outside our own," says Annette Boodram, manager of human resources planning.

President Alastair Summerlee, past chair of WUSC's board of directors, says Leave for Change is a win-win program for everyone. It reaches employers such as U of G that want to foster global citizenship in their staff. It also give people of all ages in various occupations an opportunity to make a difference, he says.

"Leave for Change enables people to share their skills internationally and, on their return, share their learning at their workplace."

Unitera will screen all applications for suitable matches with posted vacancies, interview short-listed candidates and choose participants. Employees selected must attend pre-departure training on campus before leaving for their volunteer assignment in the 2010 summer semester. When they return to Guelph, they will be asked to share their experiences informally.

For more information about Leave for Change, call Boodram at Ext. 56435.

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AODA Sessions Planned

Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act establishes new standards

BY LORI BONA HUNT

STARTING THIS MONTH, U of G will be providing orientation to employees on the new standards established by the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA). The orientation sessions are a required part of an AODA regulation known as the "customer service standard," says Pat Case, director of U of G's Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO).

"The University is committed to ensuring that its services and facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, so that they have the same opportunities and benefits as others," says Case.

"We do this in an active systematic way that involves considering accommodation at the outset and ensuring equal participation for all, whether it's access to a building or to a specific course."

Orientation will be provided both online and in person for employees who provide the types of ser-

vices covered by the act, he says. This includes people working in service areas such as Campus Community Police, the Centre for Students With Disabilities, Physical Resources and Hospitality Services. People identified for orientation will be notified through email or through their managers and supervisors.

The majority of U of G employees will be invited to participate in the online orientation course, which they can complete during work hours at times that are operationally feasible, says Case. Others such as front-line employees will be offered face-to-face orientation sessions.

The University is also creating support teams to provide continuing help to faculty and staff in implementing the accessibility provisions, he says.

In addition to orientation sessions, U of G will be reviewing relevant policies, practices and procedures to ensure they don't create or foster barriers for people with disabilities, says Case. The review will

be done in phases and will start as a pilot project in two selected areas — Student Housing Services and the University Secretariat.

"Once we've completed the pilot, a strategy for the implementation of the review in other areas providing services, education and research will be developed in consultation with senior managers."

HREO has created a brochure that includes tips on providing services for people with disabilities, says Case. The brochure will be distributed around campus and will also be available through the University accessibility website at www.uoguelph.ca/accessibility.

Approved in 2005, the AODA established regulations for meeting the needs of people with disabilities. Ontario was the first jurisdiction in Canada to develop, implement and enforce mandatory accessibility standards. As part of the act, workplaces must orient employees to ensure the provision of accessible services and facilities.

OAC Prof Aims to Improve Lives of Haitians Through Agriculture

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

AS HAITI GRAPPLES with the aftermath of last month's earthquake, Prof. Manish Raizada, Plant Agriculture, is setting up a lab aimed at improving the lives of Haitians and limiting the destruction caused by natural disasters. He's investigating how indigenous and innovative agricultural techniques can better the livelihoods of Haitian farmers as well as prevent the devastating mudslides that follow natural disasters.

"Haitian farmers struggle with hilly land, deforestation, and heavy and intermittent rainfall, which all contribute to massive soil erosion," says Raizada. "Extreme drought and downpours from climate change will only further devastate millions of Haitians. The purpose of this research is to work towards long-term reconstruction of Haiti that will not only help establish sustainable agriculture in this extremely impoverished country but will also protect people from the threat of mudslides."

Raizada will use 10 acres of land near Kingston, Jamaica, for his research. The field lab is in Jamaica because it has a climate similar to Haiti's and already has the infrastructure in place to support the initiative, he says. The long-term goal is to set up a field lab in Haiti.

As part of his research, Raizada has begun working with farmers in Ile à Vache, Haiti, in collaboration with Friends of Ile à Vache, a small Canadian NGO, to conduct an extensive survey of the needs and practices of 1,000 Haitian farmers.

"For adaptation strategies to be adopted, it is critical to involve the stakeholders at each stage of the process," he says. "We can learn from indigenous practices that might have been lost and determine which agronomic practices and seed varieties are acceptable based on feedback from the Haitian farmers."

One indigenous farming technique Raizada will be testing in the lab is planting crops on rows of dirt

mounds. "This is an ancient farming technique that was used because the mounds of dirt act like a sponge, helping to retain water and prevent the nutrients from running off."

Besides testing indigenous farming techniques, he will use the lab to investigate new ways of farming that will boost soil-nutrient retention and reduce runoff. This will include studying different intercropping practices aimed at reducing soil erosion from wind and rain and testing the root structures of plants to see which are most effective in stabilizing crops, particularly on hillsides. He'll also look at agricultural practices that would provide year-round groundcover for farmland, further protecting it from erosion.

Because deforestation is a major contributor to soil erosion and mudslides in Haiti, Raizada will be experimenting with fast-growing woods and more sustainable tree-harvesting practices.

"Haitians rely on trees as cooking fuel," he says. "One way to reduce deforestation is to continually harvest just the branches from trees, which promotes regeneration of the trees. This not only helps prevent soil erosion but also maintains a constant crop of trees for wood."

As part of the effort to reduce deforestation, Raizada will also work towards introducing cooking stoves that use less wood and building ones that are solar-based.

One of the final stages of the project is to develop sustainable agriculture kits that will include seeds for staple crops, green manures and pesticide-deterrent crops as well as storage bags and a picture book of best farming practices to aid illiterate farmers.

"Rather than giving handouts, this bottom-up project will provide Haitian entrepreneurs with low-cost appropriate seeds and technologies for them to start their own agribusinesses as well as the sustainability to lift the Haitian economy out of cycles of poverty," he says.

at GUELPH

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BENEFIT CONCERT PLANNED FOR HAITI RELIEF FEB. 11

U of G hosts a benefit concert for Haiti relief Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Peter Clark Hall. It features the bands Texting Mackenzie, What She Said, Tristan Raghunan and Josh Doerkson/Nathan Moore. Event sponsors are Student Life, Interhall Council and the college student governments, with support from Hospitality Services and the Brass Taps. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Information Desk in the University Centre or through the college governments or Interhall Council. All proceeds will go to Doctors Without Borders.

'RUMOUR MILL' SET

President Alastair Summerlee and provost Maureen Mancuso host a "Rumour Mill" Feb. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre. The forum is a chance for the University community to ask questions and separate fact from fiction when it comes to information circulating around campus.

THREE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES AT CONVOCATION

U of G will award almost 800 degrees and diplomas, three honorary degrees and the MacMillan Laureate in Agriculture during six winter convocation ceremonies Feb. 16 and 17 in War Memorial Hall. For a schedule of ceremonies, visit www.uoguelph.ca/convocation.

WUSC HOSTS TALK BY SOMALIAN REFUGEE

As part of International Development Week, World University Service of Canada presents a talk by Dahabo Noor Abdi, a Somali woman who completed high school in a Kenyan refugee camp and university in Canada through sponsorship. Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre. A pub night fundraiser for Haiti runs from 8 p.m. to midnight in the Grad Lounge on Level 5 of the University Centre.

NET IMPACT COMPETITION TACKLES SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES ON CAMPUS

The U of G chapter of Net Impact, an international network committed to making business a force for positive social and environmental change, is inviting students to take part in a competition to help tackle sustainability issues on campus. Teams of up to five students will be given a case from Hospitality Services, the Sustainability Office or Guelph Students for Environmental Change on a sustainability-focused product or service. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 12. For details, send email to ni@uoguelph.ca or visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ni.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NEW STUDENT INITIATIVES

U of G's Gordon Nixon Leadership Awards provide up to \$10,000 to campus-based student groups to support new initiatives. The deadline for applications is Feb. 26. For more information, visit www.studentlife.uoguelph.ca/GNLA.shtml.



Engineering recruitment officer Jason Tyszka says the school gets mileage from its branded car.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

Billboard on Wheels Sparks Interest in U of G Engineering

School of Engineering drives home message with high school prospects

BY ANDREW VOWLES

IT'S A HOT CAR, flames and all. Jason Tyszka, recruitment officer for the School of Engineering, loves the reaction when he arrives for a recruiting visit driving the school's specially branded Toyota Yaris.

"You get smiles and laughs and people pointing at the vehicle," he says.

No wonder. It's hard to miss the crimson four-seater with the stylized flames emblazoned on both sides beneath bold white lettering — GuelphEngineering.com — running from rear to front wheels. Also prominent is the U of G identifier, located directly over the school's three-word tagline — "Design, Create, Solve" — curving above the rear wheel wells.

Tyszka says it's hard to measure

how the billboard on wheels is paying off in student applications or enrolment numbers. But the marketing expert says the vehicle draws eyeballs and provides a talking point for the University of Guelph whenever it pulls into a school parking lot or shows up at a recruitment event on campus or off.

Last year, he or liaison officer Andrea Woon-Fat drove the vehicle to about 75 high schools in Ontario. They've logged just over 26,000 kilometres and have gone as far as Windsor, Belleville and Peterborough. They display the car at events such as the Ontario Universities' Fair, graduate gatherings and School of Engineering Sundays. The school's director has also used it to attend meetings off campus.

"It's a great way of bringing engineering into the classroom," says

Tyszka. They load up the hatchback with recruitment materials and pull into high schools primed to talk about the engineering profession and, specifically, about Guelph's academic programs and design theme.

The school leases the four-cylinder car for about as much as it formerly cost to rent vehicles for day trips around the province. Billed as a low-emission, fuel-efficient vehicle, the Yaris averages 34 km per litre in the city, 40 on the highway.

U of G students — typically males — routinely ask to take it for a spin. "A lot of guys think it's entertaining to see a car with fire on it," says Tyszka.

If pressed, he can always divert them to another vehicle, also bright red but without the flames: the Formula SAE race car maintained by the Gryphon Racing Club.

Guelph Student to Compete at World Curling Championships

Member of junior championship team has been rocking since he was seven

A U of G STUDENT will represent Canada at the 2010 World Junior Curling Championships March 6 to 14 in Switzerland.

Craig Van Ymerren, a second-year bachelor of commerce student in agricultural business, is a member of the curling team that won the men's junior national championships held in Sorel-Tracy, Que., last month.

"I don't really know how to describe it, but it feels great," says Van Ymerren of his upcoming trip to Europe. "Plus, I've never been to Switzerland before, so it should be exciting."

He is the third on the team, which is anchored by skip Jake Walker and based out of Kitchener's Westmount Golf and Country Club. In Quebec, the team defeated Manitoba 8-7 to claim the top spot. It was Van Ymerren's first national win and only his second trip to the nationals.

"A lot of the top curlers in Canada have won junior nationals, including John Morris, who is the third on Canada's Olympic team," says Van Ymerren. "Winning the same thing he won is a huge accomplishment."

The men's and women's junior national championship teams also

get to go to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, where they will meet the Olympic curling teams.

Van Ymerren is from Aylmer, Ont., and has been curling for about 14 years. "I picked it up at an early age — about seven. My dad is a pretty good curler, and so is my mom, so I definitely got it from them."

He says he finds the sport rewarding and challenging, and he especially likes participating in tournaments where a championship or cash prize is at stake because the added incentive leads to more practice and better curling.

people

SWIMMER WINS FOUR GOLDS

Gryphon men's swimmer Andrew Ford of Guelph captured four gold medals at the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championships at Brock University on the weekend. He won the 100- and 200-metre backstroke and the 200- and 400-metre individual medley. He also picked up bronze medals in the 200- and 400-metre medley relays. The second-year student received the male Dr. Jeno Tihanyi IM Award and was named an OUA all-star.

OAC GRAD STUDENT RECEIVES 2009/10 SEED SCHOLARSHIP

Joel Hemingway, a master's student working with Prof. Istvan Rajcan in the Department of Plant Agriculture, has been awarded the 2009/2010 Seed of the Year Scholarship. Hemingway, who majored in agronomy as an undergraduate at OAC, is doing his master's research on soybeans, working to identify particular lines with strong agronomic characteristics and high linoleic acid levels.

PROF EXHIBITS NEW WORK

Prof. James Carl, Fine Art and Music, is showing new work as part of a group exhibition titled "Nothing to Declare: Current Sculpture From Canada" at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. The show runs until March 7.

STUDENTS CAPTURE SECOND PLACE AT CASE COMPETITION

A U of G student team won second place at the 2010 Organizational Behaviour Case Competition held at Ryerson University in January. Team members were Michele Acacio, Brook Mackie, Jane Loughton and Stephanie Moszczka. Their advisers were Profs. Elliott Currie and Agnes Zdaniuk of the Department of Business.

RUGBY GRYPHONS PLAY FOR CANADA AGAINST U.S.

Gryphon rugby players Mackenzie Higgs, Morganne Linthwaite and Katie McNally played for Canada's under-20 women's rugby team in a match against the United States last month in Florida. Canada was losing 12-3 at halftime but came back to win 13-12 with just minutes to play. McNally scored the final winning point.

IN MEMORIAM**RANJIT CHAKRAVARTY**

Ranjit Chakravarty, a retired technician in the Department of Plant Agriculture's corn-breeding program, died Jan. 23 at the age of 56. A graduate of OAC, he joined the staff of U of G in 1982 and retired in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Ruma, and three children, Arnab, Arpana and Antara.

WARD WEBER

Ward Weber, a second-year physical sciences student from Ayton, Ont., died Jan. 31 at age 22 as the result of a traffic accident. He is survived by his parents, Joanne and Tom; his brother, Adam; his sisters, Leah, Jane and Blythe; and his partner, Lara Hintelmann.



Think of Prof. James Irving as an "Earth doctor" using tools to check the workings of our planetary body. Here he's pictured in Norway during a hiking trip last summer. PHOTO BY MELITA IRVING

Probing the Earth

Engineer's studies to provide clues about groundwater flow, contaminant transport

BY TERESA PITMAN

IMAGINE WORKING at a university where you can take a train for just 20 minutes and be in the Alps or where you can leave your office and jump into Lake Geneva for a swim.

That's what life was like for engineering professor James Irving during the three years he spent in Switzerland doing post-doctoral work at the University of Lausanne.

It sounds like the perfect spot for Irving, who loves the outdoors and spends as much time as he can hiking, backpacking and camping.

But although he loved the mountains, Irving says he's happy to be back closer to family and at U of G. He grew up in Waterloo and did his undergraduate degree in earth sciences at the University of Waterloo. Because of the work of one of his professors there, environmental geophysicist John Greenhouse, he decided to continue with studies in geophysics.

"In the beginning, applied geophysical techniques were used primarily for oil and mineral exploration," says Irving. "They were also used by scientists to understand the deep structure of the Earth and to map the thickness of glaciers, for example, but for the most part, applications were initially focused on finding natural resources."

Over the past 30 years or so, however, geophysical methods have gained increasing popularity for environmental and engineering applications, he says.

"Greenhouse was one of the pioneering people in that area, trying to use these methods to help solve environmental problems. And that's what interested me."

Following that interest led Irving to Vancouver, where he earned a master's degree in geophysics at the University of British Columbia, and then on to California to complete a PhD at Stanford University. From there, he headed to Switzerland.

"I'm really glad I had the chance to live in all of those places," says Irving, who joined U of G in January, "but it's nice to get back closer to

family again, too."

He says he's also happy to be at a university where a focus on environmental issues is valued.

"I'm a hydrogeophysicist," he says. "That means I apply geophysical methods to hydrological problems. These are techniques that involve setting up sources and receivers of energy along the Earth's surface, and perhaps in boreholes, and then using the measurements to infer detailed information about the Earth's internal properties that is otherwise very difficult to obtain. Examples of these techniques are ground-penetrating radar, electrical resistivity and seismic methods."

The methods are analogous to medical imaging techniques such as ultrasounds and CAT scans used to reveal the internal structure of the human body, he adds.

"By learning more about the structure of the Earth just below the surface, we can make better predictions about how groundwater is going to flow and where environmental contaminants are likely to end up if they get into the water. We can also better predict how groundwater supplies will respond to increased human demand and the effects of climate change, and we can therefore better understand how to best manage this important resource."

But like an ultrasound picture, the images gained from geophysical techniques are snapshots of a moment in time. Irving is taking things a step further: his research involves the use of repeated geophysical measurements over time to learn about hydrological properties and processes.

"By tracking hydrological processes over time, we can build better hydrological models and further understand how exactly groundwater flow and contaminant transport occur in a region. When we put it all together, it's almost like having a movie, often in 3D, where you can see how geophysical properties change as the hydrological processes occur."

His current work involves trying to define the levels of uncertainty as-

sociated with predictions made using geophysical data.

"For example, if you're telling someone that contaminants released at a certain time will travel to a particular water well, you can't say exactly when the contaminants will get there. You have to say it's between time A and time B. I want to quantify that degree of uncertainty."

Meanwhile, Irving still has PhD students in Switzerland whom he's supervising, so he plans to head back there this summer. His wife, Melita, who's also from Waterloo, is completing her own post-doc in Switzerland and will move back to Canada with him when he returns.

Although another summer in Switzerland's mountains is definitely something Irving looks forward to — "I've been living around mountains for the last 10 years or so" — he's also looking forward to the outdoor opportunities available in Ontario.

"I can't wait to get back into Algonquin Park. I used to spend two or three weeks at a time there on canoe trips."

Thyroid Hormone Can Improve IVF

OVC team finds hormone boosts viable embryos

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

ADDING THYROID HORMONE to the in vitro fertilization (IVF) process produces more viable embryos and has the potential to increase the success rate of pregnancy, according to a groundbreaking U of G study.

A team of biomedical scientists discovered that adding the synthetic hormone to bovine eggs after fertilization boosted the number of viable embryos by 30 per cent.

They also found that the hormone-treated embryos were more advanced in morphology and cell number and had fewer damaged cells than the embryos developed without the hormone.

"These embryos were of higher quality, so there's a greater chance they will survive and create a pregnancy," says Prof. Allan King, who worked on the study with PhD student Fazl Ashkar. "Despite the widespread use of in vitro fertilization, only 25 to 30 per cent of the procedures result in a successful pregnancy, so any increase is beneficial."

The thyroid hormone-treated embryos also showed a 25-per-cent increase in survival after freezing and thawing. Embryos are frozen for storage before they're transferred to recipients.

Published in the journal *Human Reproduction*, the study involved bovine embryos because cows are one of the closest species to humans when it comes to reproduction.

"The cow is a good model for humans because both release one or two eggs per cycle and both have similar reproductive systems and thyroid hormone levels," says Fazl. "Embryo development for humans and cows is also the same, with the gestation period being about nine months."

The researchers turned their attention to thyroid hormone because

women who have disturbances in fertility due to polycystic ovarian syndrome have levels of the hormone that are often lower than normal ranges.

"Thyroid hormone is involved in the regulation of gene expression, metabolism and growth, which are all areas important for early embryo development," says Fazl.

For the first part of their research, they had to determine to what extent the hormone exists naturally in the female reproductive system.

This initial study, which was recently published in *Experimental Biology and Medicine*, revealed the hormone was present in all areas of the reproductive tract, including the oviduct, which is the primary site of fertilization.

"This told us that thyroid hormone should have a function in fertility," says Fazl.

The next step was to investigate what impact adding the synthetic hormone to the in vitro process would have on early embryo development. The researchers added the hormone to the in vitro embryo production media at different stages of the process and found it had the most impact after the eggs were fertilized.

The scientists are now working with other research partners to explore the potential impact their findings can have on human IVF.

"Based on this research, it makes sense that thyroid hormone is important in embryo development regardless of the species," says King. Because of the similarities in human and bovine reproduction, "we predict thyroid hormone will have an effect on pre-implantation and consequently post-implantation human embryo development. Thus we are hoping this research can help improve the efficiency of in vitro fertilization in humans."

Omega-3 Effects Under Study

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

OMEGA-3S ARE GOOD for you in the long term, but a new Guelph study has found they have the immediate effect of inhibiting the body's ability to remove blood clots.

The research by Prof. Lindsay Robinson, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, revealed that the fish oil fatty acids increased blood fat and clotting factor activity in men who had a combination of high blood pressure, obesity and elevated blood-fat levels.

"We were surprised to find that the acute response has some potentially negative effects in comparison with what you might expect from chronic long-term intake," says Robinson. "But it's possible that in these individuals, there may be a dif-

ferent response to omega-3 fatty acids."

The study was published in the January issue of the *Journal of Nutrition* and has received widespread media attention.

She cautions, however, that the study results should not affect the current recommendation to eat more oily fish to get the omega-3 polyunsaturated acids that reduce the risk of blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and stroke.

"The recommendation to increase intake is very well-studied, and this doesn't change it."

In the study, eight men had controlled intake of three regimens: a high dose of omega-3 fatty acids, a low dose and plain water. Robinson and her colleagues then measured several blood components involved in clotting, including fats and clot-

ting factors such as plasminogen-activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), for the following eight hours. PAI-1 inhibits the destruction of blood clots, so high levels of it in the blood increase the risk of artery-blocking clots.

The researchers found that both omega-3 fatty acid regimens increased blood fat and clotting factor activity and that the increase in clotting factor was greater for the higher doses of omega-3 fatty acids than the lower intakes.

These results indicate that further research needs to be done on the immediate effects of omega-3 fatty acid intake, says Robinson.

"We need to look at the mechanisms such as why clotting factors are increased. It's possible there are important differences between the short-term and long-term responses to many dietary fats."

Connecting the Dots

BY TERESA PITMAN

"THE BEST PART of my job is helping people reach their potential," says Elizabeth Lowenger, the Ontario Veterinary College's diversity and careers co-ordinator.

Lowenger looks for the potential in every person she encounters, whether it's a high school student contemplating becoming a veterinarian, an OVC student needing support or interested in learning more about research and other non-clinical careers, or a graduating student looking for a job.

Although the potential may be there, the route to success isn't always clear or straightforward, she says. When it comes to students considering veterinary medicine, clearing up misconceptions is an essential part of her work.

"A lot of high school students have naive ideas about what a vet does," she says. "It's not kissing puppies all day long."

She encourages potential veterinary students to begin volunteering at a vet clinic and job-shadowing to learn what the profession is really all about. She also makes sure they're aware of the admission requirements for Guelph's DVM program.

As Lowenger looks to the United States and other countries for potential students, she also has to correct a few misconceptions about Canada. Take last year when she was staffing a booth at the national symposium of the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) in Illinois.

"Students come to this event from all across the United States, and some don't even realize we have fully accredited vet schools in Canada," she says.

One young woman came up to the booth and said she'd heard good things about OVC, but "Canada's so cold, I don't know if I could go there." Asked where she was from, the young woman replied: "Maine." She was shocked when Lowenger showed her on a map that Maine is actually north of Guelph.

As adviser for U of G's Pre-Vet



From recruiting new students to ushering new veterinarians into the working world, Elizabeth Lowenger, OVC diversity and careers co-ordinator, provides support all along the way. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Club, Lowenger encouraged the club to affiliate with the APVMA. "We were the first Canadian club to join, and we'll be the first Canadian club to send delegates to its symposium this March."

OVC will also be the first Canadian veterinary college to participate in fairs organized by the Embassy of Canada to attract Americans to post-secondary education in Canada. In March, Lowenger will be in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Columbus.

The "diversity" part of her title is strongly tied to her recruitment role.

"My goal is to try to have the student population reflect Ontario's population. Right now, most of our students are white females, so we're creating marketing plans to reach out to other communities. For ex-

ample, the aboriginal population makes up about 1.9 per cent of the province's population, but we don't have anything close to that number enrolled. So we try to make the program very visible to aboriginal communities by working with the Aboriginal Resource Centre and giving presentations, reaching out to educators and inviting people for tours. We also use OVC students and alumni from different communities as ambassadors when we go to make presentations. Our alumni help promote the college and the veterinary profession when they speak at their local school or allow an aspiring veterinarian to volunteer with them."

Lowenger's mandate is not just to encourage students to enrol at OVC but also to provide support once

they're here and to make them aware of all the different things they can do with a veterinary or graduate degree from the college.

To that end, she runs OVC's Vet Experience Program, which gives first- and second-year DVM students an opportunity to job-shadow vets who are working in a range of fields, including lab animal medicine, the nutritional and pharmaceutical industries and various clinical specialties. Many of the participating vets are OVC graduates.

"Our alumni are always willing to help their future colleagues, and they enjoy the opportunity to interact with the students. We are so grateful for their involvement in the college."

Lowenger says she enjoys helping students make connections and discover their options.

"It's so important to network. I tell students: 'If you're travelling somewhere, tell me and I'll help you find alumni to meet with. You'll learn something.' It just takes one person to connect the dots, and there are so many dots I want to connect."

To help students reach their potential, she also co-ordinates the Summer Leadership and Research Program for students who've been hired to work at OVC over the summer. They attend weekly workshops, go on field trips and attend roundtable discussions with vets from government, academia and industry. In addition, they each take on a mini-research project and, at the end of the summer, create and present a conference-quality poster.

Lowenger also oversees a mentoring program that she launched in her earlier role as the college's alumni manager. The program matches OVC alumni with DVM students to provide them with guidance and information. Additionally, she manages OVC's tour guide ambassador program, new-student events, the awards program and the veterinary oath ceremony after convocation.

"This is the closing ritual of the DVM program," she explains. "All the veterinary associations attend and welcome the new graduates into the profession, then they all recite the oath."

But Lowenger's involvement with students doesn't end at graduation. She organizes events to help new grads be aware of further educational options and will tweak résumés and make contacts for students looking for work.

From the high school student who thinks it might be fun to be a vet to the grad ready to be a mentor to new DVM students, Lowenger provides support all along the way.

"I think every interaction has long-term ramifications," she says. "OVC alumni are very generous to us, and I think that's partly because we try to treat them well all through the process."

ABCs Key for Helping Older Kids Learn to Read

Simply designed alphabet books benefit beginning readers, not just younger children, study finds

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

THOSE BEGINNER alphabet books you may have put away once your child started kindergarten should be put back on the shelf, according to a new U of G study.

Simply designed alphabet books are more effective than storybooks in helping children pay attention to text and to progress to the initial stages of reading, says Prof. Mary Ann Evans, Psychology.

"As soon as the text in a book exceeds a child's reading ability, he or she won't pay much attention to it," says Evans, who worked on the research project with Jean Saint-Aubin of the University of Moncton. "Our

findings suggest that a simple alphabet book that has one letter, one word and one illustration per page may act as a stepping stone for children to pay greater attention to print in books and to start engaging in conventional reading."

In a previous study, Evans and Saint-Aubin found that when parents read storybooks out loud, young children focus mostly on the illustrations and pay little attention to the printed text. This follow-up study revealed that alphabet books encourage children to pay more attention to the printed letters and words.

Published recently in the journal *Child Development*, the study in-

volved 20 children in senior kindergarten who had some alphabetic knowledge but could not read. They were asked to read an alphabet book while wearing a special headband with three cameras that tracked both eye movement and the duration of eye fixation on print and illustrations.

Overall, children still paid more attention to the illustration than the letter or word naming that illustration on the page, but Evans found the children with higher letter-name knowledge were more likely to pay attention to the word on the page and most notably the first letter of that word.

"This is important because if they

look at the first letter of the word, that indicates an understanding that the letter goes with the word and the word starts with the same sound as the letter," she says. "It appears that, along with a simple accompanying picture, these books help children learn the alphabetic principle that letters stand for sounds in words. This is a sign of the initial stages of reading."

The children were also able to name letters in the book that they previously identified during a letter-naming test, she adds.

Studying the children's eye movements, Evans found they would look at the letter and then look at the illustration before return-

ing their gaze to the letter and naming it.

"This is good news because it suggests they may be using the illustration and its name to help them decipher letters they know less well."

She emphasizes that the simple nature of these books is probably the reason for their effectiveness.

"These books are often bought for younger children, but this study suggests they have benefits for older children as well."

As a follow-up to this study, Evans and Saint-Aubin are currently investigating what impact placing a child in the role of reader to an adult rather than listener may have on increased attention to print.

A Passion for Creativity

Art history prof's research interests take her from craft revival in United Kingdom and Russia to architecture in Toronto

BY TERESA PITMAN

PROF. ALLA MYZELEV, Fine Art and Music, had just settled in to take notes about old documents at the Russian State Library in Moscow and was about to plug in her laptop when a librarian rushed over to stop her. Baffled, Myzelev asked what was wrong. "You'll blow all the fuses!" she was told.

"I could work for only the couple of hours my batteries lasted each time I went," she says.

Because the library was built in 1862, it wasn't surprising that it had a few electrical problems, but it was a challenge that Myzelev, who joined U of G in September 2008, hadn't expected.

"The next part of my research was in London, England, and that was much less eventful."

The challenges and quirks of life in various countries are rarely a surprise to Myzelev, who grew up in Kiev, Ukraine, then moved to Jerusalem with her family as a teenager and attended Hebrew University. At 21, she moved to Canada and did a master's degree at York University and a PhD at Queen's. From there, she did a post-doctoral stint at the University of Western Ontario before coming to Guelph.

Myzelev's interests lie in design, crafts and architecture. She's currently writing a book about Canadian art deco design and working on another about architecture in Toronto in the early 20th century.

"At that time, Toronto's architec-



Prof. Alla Myzelev, Fine Art and Music, brings to U of G interests in design, crafts and architecture.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

ture was allied stylistically to British architecture," she says. "People said they wanted to have their own Canadian designs, but really what they built was very British. I think it expressed some nostalgia, as well as a longing for grandeur and culture."

By the 1930s, however, architectural design had become more cosmopolitan, she says.

"People wanted something that looked modern, and art deco became popular. Art deco was modern but not cutting-edge."

One house Myzelev is particularly interested in was designed by a Russian immigrant for Group of Seven artist Lawren Harris.

"She was an artist and an architect, and she created this unusual design — a house with long, thin windows and wide bricks."

The house was built in 1930, and Harris lived there for only a year, but it still stands in the Forest Hill section of Toronto.

"There are few photos of the home's interior and little informa-

tion about the public reaction to the house," says Myzelev, who's hoping to learn more through her research.

For her doctoral dissertation, she looked at craft revival in the United Kingdom and Russia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, research that required travelling to both countries.

"There was a revival in traditional crafts during this time period because, as industrialization grew, people were afraid that the old crafts would be forgotten," she says. "I was

intrigued because the revivals were similar in England and Russia, and I was trying to find out what the connection might be."

Traditional thinking on the issue was that the revival started in England with the Arts and Crafts Movement, then spread to Russia. Myzelev found that the concept did start in England and that the country's early crafts bazaars were featured in magazines that were read by Russians.

Russia began offering workshops where trained artists taught people how to do traditional crafts, and these workshops became enormously popular and successful, she says.

"They made wonderful crafts with a Russian flavour that was very exotic to the British. They actually opened stores in London and sold crafts there."

The British admired the Russian success and wanted to create something along the same lines, and it was through these interactions that the crafts revival in both countries grew and flourished, she says.

Myzelev is also interested in the connections among crafts, design and changing lifestyles. She's noticed, for example, how popular knitting has become, "and I'm intrigued by the links between knitting and third-wave feminism."

She herself is an enthusiastic knitter and also enjoys doing ceramics. "I love being creative and studying creativity and sharing that passion with others."

'Lions and Tigers in Zoos, Oh My!'

Grad student's study of thermal comfort and zoo exhibit design aims to enhance life for zoo animals

BY ANDREW VOWLES

SHE WARMED UP to the big cats right away. Good thing, because Tory Young wound up spending whole days last year watching tigers and lions at the Toronto Zoo for her master's thesis in landscape architecture.

Far from playing tourist, Young was studying the cats' movements and microclimates in their enclosures for her study of thermal comfort and zoo exhibit design. Learning how animals use different parts of their homes through the diurnal play of sun and shade may help zookeepers keep their charges healthy and happy, she says.

Young defended her thesis — titled "Lions and Tigers in Zoos, Oh My!" — last month. Her work considers animals' activities, energy budgets and landscape elements to suggest how zoos and landscape consultants might improve animal enclosures.

She's been working with Prof. Robert Brown, Environmental Design and Rural Development, and Esther Finegan, an adjunct graduate faculty member in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science.

Brown studies human thermal comfort — how to use such climatic factors as temperature, wind, humidity, sunlight and shade in designing optimum spaces for people. Animals are a different prospect, but he'd been interested in extending his work, so when Young approached him about thesis topics, he sug-

gested studying microclimate in zoo enclosures.

"Enclosures need to be designed so they create microclimates that animals find thermally comfortable," says Brown. "Otherwise, it will affect the health and well-being of the animals."

At an animal welfare conference on campus early last year, Young met Finegan, an animal nutritionist who had begun exploring thermoregulation in large animals. Through Finegan, the master's student arranged to conduct her study at the Toronto Zoo.

Throughout August and September, Young monitored Siberian tigers and African lions for up to nine hours a day at the zoo. She recorded their movements and activities as well as microclimatic conditions in different parts of the enclosures. She also used an infrared camera to capture thermal images of the animals and their surroundings and to learn how the cats take in and release heat.

"I know what captive lions and tigers actually do all day," she says.

Like people, the cats had individual preferences, some forsaking the shade to sunbathe even on the hottest days. But Young was surprised to find little difference between the Siberian and African natives in summertime conditions.

She says her work might help officials in zoos and wildlife parks plan functional and naturalistic enclosure designs and choose ap-

propriate materials and structures.

"Her findings will be a major step forward," says Finegan. "There aren't many people in North America who've come up with guidelines to help people in designing zoo enclosures."

Adds Brown: "Many zoos consider the thermal comfort of their animals in their design and management, but Tory's work provides a new perspective and takes it to another level. A tree that looks like an acacia might function very well in the African landscape, but the climate in Toronto is quite different. Although the tree might look like it's doing the right thing for the lions, it might not provide the same function at all."

Young studied animal ecology at Simon Fraser University. She had planned to become a zookeeper, but jobs were scarce when she

graduated in 2004. Under a volunteer stint with Global Vision International, she spent three months on South African game reserves, tracking large predators, including lions, leopards and hyenas.

She recalls thinking: "This is amazing. This is what I need to do."

Later she monitored beaches in Georgia for nesting sea turtles for the Georgia Sea Turtle Centre, a rehabilitation, research and education facility.

Last year's studies in Toronto afforded a chance to observe another species besides the big cats. She says zoo visitors are often impatient and expect the animals to "perform."

"I learned a lot about animals, but I also learned a lot about people. You feel like you need to educate them. People don't read signs."



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The Business of People

Banker-turned-business prof finds what was missing from her professional life

By TERESA PITMAN

LIKE MANY PEOPLE working for corporations, Prof. Michèle Bowring, Business, often felt frustrated by the experience. As she saw it, the "people side" of organizational life tended to be neglected while more of the company's resources were directed to technology and other areas.

"It's not that the company's leaders wanted to ignore these issues, but they tended to get pushed out of the way," she says.

It was the desire to find solutions to these frustrations — or at least a few answers to her questions — that sent Bowring back to school and eventually into academia.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, she moved to Montreal with her parents when she was seven.

"I still have memories of life in Egypt, especially the summers, when we'd go to the beach in Alexandria," she says. "I've been back several times, and it looks quite different from an adult's perspective than from a child's."

Bowring did an undergraduate degree in psychology at Queen's University, then found a job in the banking industry. She also became an optician for a time, then returned to banking.

"After many years of working, I felt something was missing in my professional life," she says, "so I went to York University and started an MBA."

At the time, the program allowed students to do one year at York followed by a second year at Laval University in Quebec City. During the first year of her MBA, Bowring continued to work full-time at her banking job, but while in Quebec, she was able to turn her full attention to her studies.

That's when she started talking to her professors about the frustrations she'd experienced at work and her interest in understanding more about leadership and management.

"They asked me if I'd ever thought about becoming an academic, because then I could spend the rest of my life figuring out these issues."

She hadn't really considered the idea before, but once the question had been asked, Bowring saw a new direction for her professional life. After graduating, she eventually took a faculty position at the University of Manitoba. Five years later, she decided to pursue a PhD at the University of Leicester in England, where she was also a full-time faculty member. She joined U of G last July.

When she first heard about the opening at Guelph, Bowring was keen to apply.

"My partner and I always knew we wanted to come back to Canada at some point, and the U of G position seemed like a good fit. I'm hoping to settle down a bit now because we've had



six long-distance moves in the past 18 years. One of my friends sent me a card when we moved here that said: 'You might want to consider nailing down the furniture.'"

Bowring's two main areas of interest are leadership and gender, and her research tends to combine the two. For her doctoral studies, she interviewed people from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States who worked in either the military (which she says would be considered a traditionally "masculine" organization) or as nurses (a more "feminine" career). About half of those she interviewed were lesbian or gay.

"I found that people had well-developed ideas about what

makes a good leader," she says. "But the challenge was working out how to manage that within the organization. We tend to see leadership as a masculine role, so the challenge for women was: 'How feminine am I, how feminine do I want to be, and how can I be a leader and achieve that?'"

Being a leader isn't just about having a particular title, adds Bowring.

"We all exhibit leadership in different ways in different settings. My goal with my research is to make things better not just for the leaders but also for those who are being led."

She plans to continue exploring the question of how people negotiate and develop strategies to provide good leadership in organizations where people tend to react to the leader's gender in ways that can make it challenging. She is also interested in studying how the media represent leaders, especially women in leadership roles, and has published papers analyzing the roles of *Star Trek's* Captain Janeway, Mary Tyler Moore's Mary Richards and Candice Bergen's Murphy Brown.

To the classroom, Bowring brings a love of teaching and a desire to keep things current and interesting.

"I get bored easily, so I realized early on that I needed to develop a repertoire of things to teach, things I find interesting. I teach at all levels — undergraduate, master's and PhD — and I enjoy them all."

Last semester, she taught students in Guelph's undergraduate leadership certificate program. "It was a wonderful experience," she says.

Besides her responsibilities here, Bowring continues to serve on supervisory committees for University of Manitoba students doing master's degrees in leadership and nursing.

Although she's maintained that connection with Manitoba, Bowring says she likes living in Guelph.

"I've always lived in big cities, but I've come to really appreciate it here. It's easy to get around, the countryside is beautiful, and people have been very friendly and welcoming."

Her first week here, however, was not the ideal introduction to life in Guelph.

"Two days after we moved, my partner got sick and we had to go to the ER. The next day, I was bitten by a dog, so we were back to the ER. Then my partner got sick again, so we returned to the ER; it turned out to be gallbladder problems. Everything is fine now, but it was kind of funny that within a week of moving here, I knew half of the ER nurses by name."

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Workshop to Focus on Chemicals in Environment

Environmental Sciences Research Initiative funds event that will bring together scientists and policy-makers

"PHARMACEUTICALS in the Environment: Lessons Learned" is the theme of an all-day workshop that will bring together environmental science and public policy Feb. 27 on campus. Participants will discuss endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the environment, as well as research and policy on new chemicals.

Prof. Andreas Heyland, Integrative Biology, says few pharmaceuticals are present in high enough amounts in the environment to harm aquatic plants and animals.

But growing public concern has led policy-makers to focus on these products at the expense of addressing risks posed by new chemicals — so-called "chemicals of concern" — such as flame retardants and nanomaterials.

Correcting the balance is the purpose of the workshop, which starts at 9 a.m. in the science complex atrium. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required.

Among the speakers is Jerrold Heindel of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Na-

tional Institutes of Health, who will discuss developmental origins of disease. U of G political science professor Judith McKenzie will examine the effects of pharmaceutical contaminants on the health of women and children.

The roster also includes Karen Kidd of the University of New Brunswick (fish contraception), Vance Trudeau of the University of Ottawa (effects of pharmaceuticals on sex hormones in aquatic animals), Bryan Brooks of Baylor University (water quality and chemicals

of concern) and Lynn Frewer of Wageningen University (public perceptions of risk).

The day will wrap up with a discussion and question period, followed by a poster session and social.

Sponsored by the School of Environmental Sciences (SES), the workshop is funded by U of G's Environmental Sciences Research Initiative (ESRI), a cross-campus initiative involving all seven colleges. Last year, a group led by Heyland received ESRI seed funding intended to develop a full environmental re-

search project, including this event.

Besides Heyland and master's student Ashley Miller, organizers are Profs. Glen Van Der Kraak, Integrative Biology; Keith Solomon and Paul Sibley, SES; and Hongde Zhou, Engineering.

To register for the workshop, send email to amille01@uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 58569. The deadline for graduate and undergraduate students to submit abstracts for poster displays is Feb. 15. For more information, visit www.comparativephys.ca/ESRI_Workshop.

Fire Good and Bad for Ecosystems

Fire ecologist looks at how blazes affect wetlands

BY ANDREW VOWLES

FIRE IS BAD. At least that's what Brian Benscoter learned from the Smokey-the-Bear message about forest fires while growing up in New Jersey. Now the post-doc in Guelph's Department of Integrative Biology has a different take.

Fire is actually a good thing for natural ecosystems, he says. But now there's a different reason to worry — one that Benscoter studies in Western Canada along with his supervisor, Prof. Merritt Turetsky.

The self-described fire ecologist looks at how blazes affect wetlands. He says we should be worried about peat reserves that lock up about one-third of the carbon found on land, much of it stored in northern Canada and Russia. Release that carbon through fire, he says, and who knows what the consequences might be for global warming.

Worse than that, climate change may even accelerate the process. In a chicken-and-egg scenario, scientists expect climate change to cause more fires in the first place, says Benscoter. Current models suggest that, over the next 50 years, wildfires in Canada's boreal north will increase in severity and extent by about 30 per cent.

"Until recently, we thought peatlands didn't burn," he says. Indeed, that belief still holds among more than a few scoffing firefighters, he says. But these regions do indeed burn, even in marshy areas.

Benscoter studies the effects of wildfire on the area ecology, including its benefits for regenerating plants, removing old growth and maintaining animal habitat.

"Fire helps to reset ecosystems," he says. "Plants, animals and ecosystems have evolved to rely on fire."

A newly scorched landscape appears to be dead, he says, but "within days, green vegetation is coming up.

It's a system that's full of life, not this barren wasteland."

Benscoter works at the Meanook Biological Research Station, run by the University of Alberta north of Edmonton. The station occupies a 200-hectare national wildlife area where aspen parkland meets boreal forest at the southern boundary of Canada's peatlands.

He's been visiting the area for about 10 years, spending weeks or months at a time. In March, he will work there with a hydrologist, measuring snow and making a water budget from snowmelt.

Benscoter often visits shortly after fire crews have extinguished a blaze, even when the area is still smouldering. He's interested in what has burned and where, types of fuels and the extent and depth of peat deposits.

He also studies historical fires, using air photos and historical data.

Learn about burning peatlands, says Benscoter, and you can get an idea of likely carbon emissions. He and his co-researchers have developed models to estimate burn depth and area. That information may help managers in predicting and controlling fires.

If he's not threatened by fire itself while trekking with a portable gas analyzer through a blackened landscape, there are other hazards.

"I've been chased by a moose twice and stumbled on a bull elk once in mating season."

He began visiting Western Canada for his master's degree at Villanova University in Pennsylvania; he'd become interested in fire ecology during a Florida field trip as an undergrad at Villanova. He completed a PhD at Southern Illinois University.

This fall, Benscoter will begin a faculty post at Florida Atlantic University.

TIM CALDWELL

Research technician in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science since 2007

Tim Caldwell has been playing slo-pitch baseball in a co-ed league organized by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs since 2005, but he's been playing the game much longer than that. "I think I've been playing slo-pitch my whole life," he says.

In slo-pitch baseball, the pitcher throws the ball so that it goes up in the air six or seven feet, then falls as it goes towards the batter.

"The batter has a large home plate, larger than in regular baseball," says Caldwell. "If you don't swing at it and the ball touches the plate, it's a strike. If you don't swing and the ball lands anywhere else, it's a ball."

Another of his favourite activities is playing cards. Euchre and a similar game called Shoot are high on his list, but "I'm always willing to try a new card game," he says.

Growing up on a beef farm near Blyth, he played a lot of card games with his family, and they still gather around the table with a deck of cards at family get-togethers.

Caldwell's parents continue to run the farm, and he enjoys helping them out when he can. "I like working with animals and helping with the crops. I often think about having our own farm, but we'll have to see how things go."

Time for all these activities is in short supply these days because Caldwell and his wife, Jennifer, added twin girls to their family last summer. Now six months old, Natalie and Hannah are keeping their parents extremely busy.

ANDRIA JONES

Faculty member in the Department of Population Medicine since 2007

"I have one of B.B. King's guitar picks," says Prof. Andria Jones. "I like to say he gave it to me, but actually he kind of chucked it in my direction."

Chucked or not, the guitar pick is a treasured souvenir of one of Jones' favourite activities: going to hear live music.

"I don't quite know how to describe what kind of music I like," she says. "I love blues, and I love the Hillside Festival — both Hillside Inside and Hillside in the summer. Some of my favourite performers are the Arkells, Wooden Sky, Xavier Rudd,



Tim Caldwell



Andria Jones

Kid Coma, Serena Ryder and the Weakerthans."

When she's not attending concerts, Jones is an avid reader who likes to spend time with other avid readers.

"When I was a grad student, I had a group of friends who also liked to read. We met some other women at the Bookshelf and joined together to create a book club. There's a nice mix of people from different backgrounds. We get together every six weeks, take turns choosing a book and discuss it over wine."

Jones says the book club has introduced her to a number of books that she probably wouldn't have read otherwise but that she ended up loving. "Hotel World is one example — I loved that book."

Although she doesn't have as much time to read these days as she'd like, she does get through an average of three or four books a month.

During the winter, Jones also curls once a week as part of a social curling league. "I just started three years ago, and it's a lot of fun."

KEITH SCHULTZ

Third-year student in criminal justice and public policy

"A healthy mind in a healthy body" is the slogan Keith Schultz lives by. Intramural basketball and workouts at the gym keep his body in shape. And debating does the same for his brain.

"I want to go to law school eventually, so I was looking for something to improve my public-speaking skills," says Schultz, who joined the U of G Debate Club in his first year. "It's turned out to be a lot of fun, and I like the people I get to meet — the kind of people who like to get together and have intellectual discussions."

Club meetings follow the format of intercollegiate debate competitions, and club members usually attend three or four competitions each semester. In the fall, for example, they travelled to McGill, Queen's and Yale.

At meetings during the fall semester, club members are given a statement to debate and are divided into four teams, with two arguing for the statement and two against. They get only 15 minutes to prepare. In the winter semester, debates are held between just two teams. One team chooses the topic and is expected to have a well-thought-out argument. The other team doesn't know the topic in advance.

Although debating can be serious business, the Guelph club is fairly laid-back, says Schultz. "We are very supportive of new people and happy to teach them the skills they need to debate."

Prospective members are also welcome to come and watch before deciding to join, he adds. For information about the date and location of the next meeting, contact him at schultzk@uoguelph.ca.



Keith Schultz

At Guelph Publication Schedule

Publication Date	Deadline
Feb. 24	Feb. 16
March 10	March 2
March 24	March 16
April 7	March 30

TSS Hosts 'EdTech Un-Conference'

KEEPING UP WITH CHANGES in learning technology can be challenging, but Teaching Support Services (TSS) plans to tackle the challenge in a unique way when it hosts "The EdTech Un-Conference" Feb. 17 during Reading Week.

The event aims to bring U of G faculty and instructional staff together to share information on how they're using educational technology in their teaching, to learn from one

another and to look at future possibilities.

The un-conference will include some prearranged presentations but will also feature a large degree of self-organization by participants. Part of the program will be based on what activities people are interested in and what demonstrations they're willing to provide.

The day will kick off with a live chat connecting experts at three loca-

tions in North America. This will be followed by demonstrations, break-out sessions, hands-on experiences and discussions.

The un-conference runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with opening and wrap-up sessions in Room 106 of Rozanski Hall. To register, visit the TSS website at www.uoguelph.ca/tss. If you have questions, call Richard Gorrie at Ext. 53731 or Kyle Mackie at Ext. 52936.

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Valerie Poulton

Time for Real Change in Managing Obesity: Prof

Obesity is a health problem, not a social issue, says Guelph prof launching project to help patients, doctors

BY REBECCA KENDALL

WHEN YOU SEE ADS for diet pills and quick-fix weight-loss methods, the message they often give is that obesity is a social problem. What if, instead of telling people that being thinner is important because it makes them more attractive and likeable, these messages told people that being thinner will reduce their chances of developing and living with chronic health conditions and give them a better quality of life?

If this were the case, Prof. Paula Brauer, Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, would have a much easier job. She has received more than \$125,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to develop several strategies to manage obesity within Canada's primary-care setting and advance health-system services for local obesity management.

"Recognizing obesity as a health problem rather than a social issue is key when developing strategies to fight it," says Brauer, who's working with Dr. Nick Kates and the Hamilton Family Health Team. "Part of our problem is that we haven't been treating obesity in the health system as a problem unto its own. It's been left to the commercial sector, which often promises a magic cure-all solution."

Obesity is an important issue because it's often connected to other chronic health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis and heart disease. Today, one in four Canadian adults is obese, and the number of children living with obesity is skyrocketing.

"It's time for real change," says Brauer. "People's lives depend on the decisions being made now, and what has traditionally been done in the past simply isn't working."

The Hamilton Family Health

Team, which is made up of more than 150 health professionals, including general practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, pharmacists and dietitians, is one of 150 family health teams in Ontario. Family health teams are a relatively new addition to Ontario's health-care system and are designed to promote health, reduce wait times and improve access to team care, she says. An additional 50 family health teams have been proposed for Ontario and are expected to be implemented over the next several years.

Dietitians in the family health team model play key roles in bringing about changes in the way obesity is addressed, says Brauer. Historically, dietitians have worked in larger institutional settings such as hospitals and health-care facilities, but now they're being brought into primary care, where patients can be better supported in making needed

lifestyle changes.

"Questions related to diet and nutrition are asked in 20 to 25 per cent of doctor visits," she says. "In most cases, these questions are directly connected to the condition the patient is seeing the doctor for, which illustrates the importance of having nutrition expertise readily available to patients and other health-care providers on the team. It makes sense to have dietitians positioned in primary care, where most of the disease prevention and health promotion work is occurring in the health-care system."

Brauer's research focuses on studying the effectiveness of health intervention programs in the community. These programs have their challenges, she says. She cites as an example a study that involved registered dietitians doing one-on-one counselling in family physician practices. Although 40 per cent of the patients with dyslipidemia (a lipid disorder) and 62 per cent with diabetes knew they could bring their cholesterol and glucose levels down to clinical targets by changing how they ate, only 16 per cent of them lost five

per cent or more body weight, which is considered a moderate target for health benefits.

"These are not ideal situations involving eager volunteers," says Brauer. "Health behaviour change is very complicated, and you have to be relatively well to undertake any kind of diet or physical activity change. In our field, only 50 to 70 per cent of people will finish the intervention no matter how ideal it is."

Part of the challenge is that primary care serves people of all ages, who each have their own set of challenges and circumstances, she says. There is no one-size-fits-all model of care.

"It also serves every geographic setting, and the availability of primary care varies greatly among urban centres, suburban environments, small to medium-sized towns, and rural and remote settings. More than 80 per cent of Canadians see a doctor at least once a year, so how do you develop a range of services that will result in maximum effectiveness? That's what we're helping to bring into focus through this project."

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NSERC Awards Guelph \$2.2M

Continued from page 1

Her team will analyze historical DNA samples from Cooke Aquaculture's elite broodstock from New Brunswick, as well as the wild populations that produced the broodstock.

"This will help Fisheries and Oceans Canada understand local adaptation by endangered wild Atlantic salmon from the Bay of Fundy," she says.

Boulding's colleague Prof. John Fryxell received \$252,000 to assess the long-term viability of woodland caribou in Ontario. A number of initiatives are underway in Ontario and across the country to reverse the troubling decline in caribou numbers throughout much of the boreal forest zone, says Fryxell. The Guelph program will help integrate the results of ongoing field studies into a comprehensive computer modelling tool. Among other things, it will be used to evaluate caribou viability in response to long-term climate change scenarios, he says.

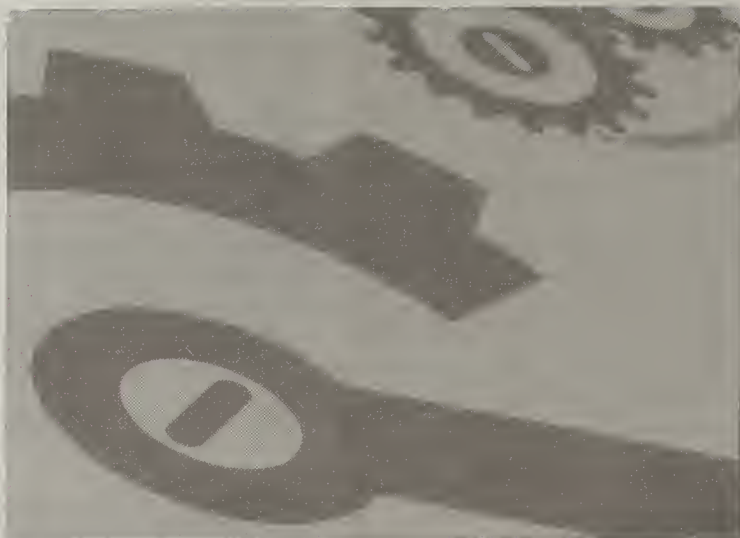
"This will help a large set of stake-

holders find the best solution to an environmental, social and economic challenge in the Far North."

Also in the Department of Integrative Biology, Prof. Merritt Turetsky received \$399,400 to develop the first peatland hydrological and wildfire model to predict fire danger and combustion patterns under both pristine and drought conditions.

In the Department of Plant Agriculture, Prof. Barry Shelp will use his \$431,734 award to improve understanding of the mechanisms responsible for physiological disorders in stored apples. This could lead to improved diagnostic technologies for the \$164-million-a-year apple industry.

In the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Peter Tremaine was awarded \$587,970 for research that improves understanding of the conditions that will be encountered in the novel "Generation IV" CANDU supercritical water-cooled reactor that will come online in 2025.



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held at the end of the semester for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by Feb. 12 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@exec.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039. The following people correctly reported that the Jan. 27 photo was of Mountain Hall: Iain Braithwaite, Shane Danis, Tom Gallina, Jessica Martin, John Van Manen, Matt Edwards and Ray Hutchison.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

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Scott Coburn

Group Mentors High Schoolers

Continued from page 1

been unbelievable," she says.

The projects are varied. In 2008, she and her colleagues worked with the Waterloo Health Unit to conduct an air-quality project that focused on vehicle idling.

"Waterloo has some of the worst air quality in southern Ontario, so this was a major priority for them," says Wicks, who took a year off from her studies at Guelph to manage the project full-time.

Last year, the group served as mentors to Grade 9 and 10 students

at Waterloo Collegiate Institute who refurbished a 1913 Ford Model T into a solar-powered vehicle.

"They built it from the ground up," says Wicks, noting that additional mentorship was provided by members of the University of Waterloo alternative fuels team. "They came with nothing, they had a plan and they made it happen."

This semester, a new group of Waterloo Collegiate students is working with Reduce the Juice and some engineering students from the University of Waterloo to convert a 1985 Volkswagen pickup truck into an electric vehicle. The truck, which is owned by a delivery driver for the Waterloo Town Square farmers' market, will be used to transport organic vegetables, says Wicks.

The same group also plans to build a prototype for a bike-powered generator that will eventually power

local community events and public awareness programs.

"If all goes well, we actually hope to have it ready to go by Earth Day," says Wicks, who recently secured \$1,000 from The Co-operators Limited to help fund the project.

She prepared a case for the initiative and submitted it for consideration at the Co-operators Youth Conference for Sustainability in Leadership, which was held on campus in September. She was among 12 applicants from across Canada who received a total of \$47,000 to support their environmental efforts.

"We'd like the prototype to become part of our travelling road show, which already features a moving trailer outfitted with solar panels and a wind turbine. Projects like this are popping up more and more these days, and it's so cool to see them become a reality."

News As It Happens

Continued from page 1

this spring, says Cunningham. "The timing of their retirements accelerated this change."

Many of the unique features of the newspaper such as research news and feature stories about students, faculty and staff will appear on the new "At Guelph" web page, which will be accessible from the University's website.

That page will also include photos, announcements such as honours and awards, and other news and information, as well as an events listing.

The events section on the University's website was updated in

January to allow members of the University community to submit their coming events online at www.uoguelph.ca/events/addevent.

The U of G website will eventually include video news releases and stories.

A new email address — cpa@uoguelph.ca — will allow the community to submit story ideas and comments directly to the C&PA editorial team.

"Our aim is to keep our community well-informed in a more timely manner about the important stories and developments affecting this community," says Cunningham.

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Four-bedroom home on King Street, 2½ baths, two kitchens, walkout basement, close to park and downtown, view at www.160kingst.com, 519-823-5192 evenings.

Two-bedroom condo apartment for sale or lease in downtown London, Ont., move-in condition, mature quiet building, on-site laundry, available now. If renting, cost is \$1,150 a month, owner looking for

responsible couple or grad students, rent negotiable for single tenant, no smoking, prefer no pets, condo fee/lease includes utilities, parking for one vehicle, 519-843-3470 or nudds.family@sympatico.ca.

FOR RENT

Partially furnished lower level of condo, shared front entrance, large spacious main room with fireplace, small galley kitchen/laundry room, private bath, prefer mature female, close to bus route and campus, non-smokers, no pets (must love dogs), available May 1, \$650 a month inclusive, elayne.starr@gmail.com.

Upper floor of house on King Street, two bedrooms, laundry, use of backyard, wireless Internet, street parking, \$175 a week inclusive, 519-823-5192 evenings or bobinguelph@rog-ers.com.

Cottage in Southampton, two bedrooms, fireplace, deck, barbecue, walking distance to beaches and

town, photos available, Melody, 519-836-6264 or melody.wren@sympatico.ca.

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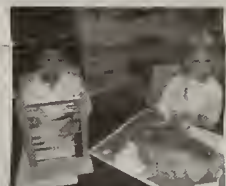
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branching out

Editor's note: This is one in a series of columns about the tree species that can be found on the U of G campus. It is written by certified arborist Rob Shaw-Lukavsky, a gardener in the Grounds Department.

MOST GARDENERS WOULD BE SURPRISED to see a tree column in praise of the tree of heaven. After all, it's also referred to as the "stink tree" and the "tree from hell." But U of G's urban forest includes many trees that make up for their lack of traditional beauty with their interest value.

The name "tree of heaven" is certainly misleading. It's actually a direct translation of the botanic name *Ailanthus altissima*, meaning "highest" or "tallest" in reference to the tree's size rather than its beauty.

The best example of this species on campus is south of Massey Hall, where it stands in a triangular area surrounded by sidewalks and yew shrubs. The tree resem-

bles an overgrown sumac and has similar leaves. The bark is quite smooth and has diamond patterns. The tree looks almost as if it has escaped from a rainforest, and with good reason: the tree of heaven is the only member of its genus that is not tropical.

To be fair, this tree's list of sins is relatively short. The female trees are prolific seeders, and young trees sprout up everywhere, from garden beds to gravel areas and even inside sewer grates. The male trees produce foul-smelling flowers. Finally, the wood is brittle, and the trees are typically of poor structure.

But the tree of heaven is also an important source of herbal medicines, especially in its native China, where nearly every part of the tree is used. Extracts treat everything from boils and itches to dysentery, asthma, epilepsy and cancer.

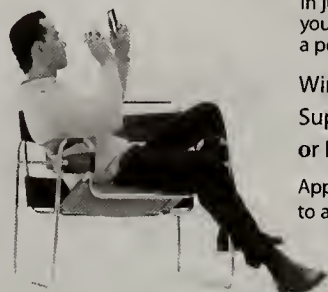
In addition, the tree is an important host for silk-worms and in turn a source for silk production.



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EVENTS

ART CENTRE

The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre holds an opening reception for the exhibition "Natalia Husar: Burden of Innocence" Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

The art centre's third annual Family Day runs Feb. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring a series of free family-friendly activities. They include a scavenger hunt, a painting lesson to music, performance art, printmaking and a behind-the-scenes tour of the art centre's exhibitions.

CONCERTS

The Thursday at Noon concert series presents a Creative Music Festival/Symposium featuring Profs. Ellen Waterman and James Harley, Fine Art and Music, Feb. 11. On Feb. 25, soprano Sarah Kramer and pianist Anna Ronai perform. Concerts begin at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

U of G hosts a benefit concert for Haiti relief Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Peter Clark Hall. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Information Desk on UC Level 1.

LECTURES

The Department of Economics presents Christopher Ragan of McGill University, a visiting economist in the Department of Finance, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in Rozanski 101. He will discuss "Making Sense of the Global Financial Crisis."

The ASTRA lecture series continues Feb. 24 with Prof. Fred Eidlin, Political Science, explaining "The Method of Problems Versus the Method of Topics" at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 317.

The School of Fine Art and Music hosts the fourth annual Shenkman Lecture in Contemporary Art March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. Guest speaker is English artist Iwona Blazwick, who will discuss "Just What Is It That Makes Today's Institutions So Different, So Appealing?"

FILM

The Spanish studies program presents *Crimen Perfecto*, directed by Alex de la Iglesia, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in MacKinnon 228. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

"Dourama," a free series sponsored by the U of G Library and the Central Student Association, screens *The Cove* Feb. 11 and *Fierce Light* Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in Thornbrough 1200.

NOTICES

President Alastair Summerlee and provost Maureen Mancuso host a "Rumour Mill" Feb. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in UC 103.

The TransCanada Institute hosts "Dancing With the Dead," a collaborative show-and-tell on painting and poetry featuring painter Natalia Husar and poet/novelist Prof. Janice Kulyk Keefer, English and Theatre Studies, Feb. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at 9 University Ave. E.

Nominations are being accepted until Feb. 26 for U of G's annual student life awards — the Accessibility Award, the André Auger Citizenship Award, the Brian D. Sullivan Student Leadership Award, the Emilie Hayes Award for Community Partnerships, the Roberta Mason Award and the R.P. Gilmor Student Life Award. For more information and nomination forms, visit www.studentlife.uoguelph.ca/AwardsandRecognition.shtml.

Faculty and staff from the universities of Guelph, Waterloo, Western, McMaster and Laurier face off at the 33rd annual "old-timers" University Faculty-Staff Invitational Hockey Tournament Feb. 18 and 19 on campus. For a game schedule, visit <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/cs/uoft>.

A human resource management career fair featuring business professionals from a variety of companies runs Feb. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the science complex atrium.

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic is offering a four-session program on managing headaches starting Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in UC 335. The clinic is also running a STOP Worrying! workshop March 1 at 7 p.m. in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers or leave a message at Ext. 52662.

University professor emeritus O.P. Dividedi of the Department of Political Science is offering free pran yoga sessions Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. in UC 103. The sessions start Feb. 19. Everyone is welcome. Wear loose clothing and bring a mat if you have one.

SEMINARS

The Department of Plant Agriculture seminar series presents Neia Emery of Trent University discussing "Yield, Tumours and Double Agents: The Role of Cytokinin in Source-Sink Relationships" Feb. 10 and Amy Iezzoni of Michigan State University explaining "RosBreed: Enabling Marker-Assisted Breeding in the Rosaceae" Feb. 24. The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307.

NSERC-CANPOLIN and the School of Environmental Sciences host a talk by entomologist John Borden, chief scientific officer at Contech Enterprises Inc., Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. in Graham 3301. His topic is "The SuperBoost Saga: Development of a

New Product Based on the Honey-bee Brood Pheromone."

"Immune Responses to Influenza: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" is the focus of Veronika von Messling of the University of Quebec Feb. 12 in the Department of Pathobiology seminar series. On Feb. 26, David Suarez of the USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory considers "Vaccination for Avian Influenza Virus: Issues Preventing Effective Control." The seminars begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

Christer Aakeröy of Kansas State University is guest speaker in the Department of Chemistry seminar series Feb. 18. He will discuss "Constructing Co-Crystals Using Molecular Sense and Supramolecular Sensibility" at 10:45 a.m. in science complex 1511.

The Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences presents McMaster University kinesiology professor Stuart Phillips Feb. 22 at 3:30 p.m. in Food Science 241. His topic is "Muscles, Protein, Weights and Aging... and Why You Should Care About All of Them."

The Department of Pathobiology graduate students' committee hosts its inaugural seminar Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. in OVC 1714. Guest speaker is Tak Mak, director of the Campbell Family Institute for Breast Cancer Research at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Next up in the Department of Integrative Biology seminar series is Kay Holekamp of Michigan State University examining "Roles of Selection and Constraint in the Evolution of Sex-Role Reversed Traits" Feb. 23 at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

Peter Poole, Canada Research Chair in Modelling and Computer Simulation at St. Francis Xavier University, is guest speaker in the Department of Physics seminar series Feb. 23. He will discuss "Is There a Limit on Supercooling a Liquid? Crystallization, Glass Formation and Kauzmann" at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 101.

The Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology presents Peter McCourt, Canada Research Chair in Plant Molecular Biology at the University of Toronto, Feb. 24. He will explore "Chemical and Systems Biology Approaches to Understanding Hormone Signalling in Arabidopsis" at 12:30 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 156.

"Kenya: Pigs and Children Competing for Food" is the topic of Prof. Cate Dewey, Population Medicine, in the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare's animal behaviour and welfare seminar series Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 141.

SYMPOSIUM

U of G hosts the 2010 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Feb. 17 and 18 in Rozanski Hall. This year's theme is "The Culture of Green." For information, visit <http://ots.open.uoguelph.ca>.

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for the following Teaching Support Services events can be found online at www.tss.uoguelph.ca. If you have questions, call Mary Nairn at Ext. 53571.

On Feb. 17, the daylong "EdTech Un-Conference" offers instructors an opportunity to share, show and learn about what's current in educational technology. If you have questions, call Richard Gorrie at Ext. 53731.

A graduate student workshop on academic job searches runs Feb. 23. Featured speakers are Prof. Anthony Clarke, assistant vice-president (academic) and dean of graduate studies, and Tracey Jandrisits, manager of faculty relations and recruitment.

Upcoming TSS "Learning Circle" discussion groups include "Teaching on the Edge" Feb. 26. It provides a forum where faculty can share and explore innovative teaching methods, techniques and philosophies. New members are welcome.

Desire2Learn drop-in clinics continue Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in McLaughlin Library 200-A. Telephone help is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Ext. 52530.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Kevin Dufton, School of Environmental Sciences, is Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. in Richards 038. The thesis is "Temporal Variability of the Ontario Soil Nitrogen Test." The advisers are Profs. John Lauzon and Bill Dean.

The final examination of Anne Easton, an M.Sc. candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology, is Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "The Genetic Architecture of Developmental Rate in Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Associations With Age at Maturation." The advisers are Profs. Moira Ferguson and Roy Danzmann.

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Maureen Mundia, Molecular and Cellular Biology, is Feb. 24 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "The Regulation of Cardiomyopathy-Linked Mutations on Folding, Stability and Polymerization of Human Alpha-Cardiac Actin." The adviser is Prof. John Dawson.

The final examination of Jennifer Monk, a PhD candidate in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, is Feb. 24 at 9:30 a.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "Anti-Inflammatory Hormonal Immune Competence in the Acutely Malnourished Weanling Mouse." The adviser is Prof. Bill Woodward.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Eden Mills Writers' Festival holds a fundraiser called "Unlucky in Love" Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf ebar. It features readings by Leon Rooke, U of G English professor Marianne Micros, Alexandra Oliver and Sarah Kramer.

"A Bach Travelogue" featuring organist Michael Bloss runs Feb. 14 at 3 p.m. at Dublin Street United Church.

The Guelph Chamber Choir and the Orpheus Choir of Toronto perform music from Russia, Canada and Latvia Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. at Harcourt United Church, 87 Dean Ave. For tickets, call 519-763-3000.

The Guelph-Wellington branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario hosts a talk by Guelph MP Frank Valeriote on historical Kingsmill Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Schoothouse, 611 Silvercreek Pkwy. N.

The Guelph Civic Museum and the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies present the lecture "Search for a Hero — Talbot Mercer Papineau and the Great War" Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the museum.

The Guelph Horticultural Society hosts Roger Tschantz discussing "You and Interesting Annuals for Your Garden" Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Dublin Street Church.

The next meeting of the Wellington branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Zehrs Community Room on Paisley Road.

The Guelph Legion is hosting a Beach Boys tribute dinner and show Feb. 26. For information, visit www.guelphlegion.ca.

The Guelph Concert Band presents "The Sound of Musicals: The Best of Broadway" Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. at the River Run Centre. Call 519-763-3000 for ticket information.

Barber Gallery is holding a free opening reception Feb. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. for the exhibition "Cwen Twenty Ten," a celebration of ancestral and contemporary women that features the work of 20 female artists. Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis will have an information booth in the gallery.

at GUELPH

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INSIDE: ART CURATOR TO GIVE SHENKMAN LECTURE • A PACT WITH THE UNIVERSE • THE RIGHT FIT

Borrow a Living,
Breathing Book*Books in Human Library really do come to life*

BY TERESA PITMAN

FOR 363 DAYS OF THE YEAR, Chris Langley is a graduate student in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. But for two days in March, he'll be a "book" you can borrow from the U of G Library.

Langley is participating for the second year in the University's Human Library (it was called the Living Library last year). It runs March 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features volunteer human books representing groups that may face prejudice and stereotyping. "Readers" who want to confront their own prejudices or learn more about the lives of others can borrow a book for 30 minutes of discussion.

"Last year, I thought I would just volunteer to help out with the program," says Langley, "but then I realized that, as an atheist, I do encounter prejudice. Some people describe atheists as shallow, callous and even evil because of their position on religion. So I decided I might have something to offer by becoming a book."

Readers thought so, too, because he was borrowed for all but one of his available time slots last year.

U of G librarian Janet Kaufman, who's organizing the event, says the Human Library "is a great way for people who have strong opinions to talk to someone face to face in a safe setting and really break down the stereotypes."

So far, she has confirmed about 30 books for this year's program, with many returning from last year and others introducing new topics. The new books were chosen based on feedback obtained from participants at last year's event, she says.

The new offerings include a journalist and radio host, a female race car driver, a politician, a former foster child and someone who's had a double lung transplant. Among the returning books are two gay men, a runner with a disability and a phone sex worker.

Returning book Veronica Majewski, a fourth-year student in philosophy and women's studies, has changed her title from lesbian feminist to queer feminist "to better reflect how I identify myself." She says it was a negative article in the *National Post* about women's studies that motivated her to come back this year.

Reflecting on her experience last

year, she says that although the forum encourages questions, "some people are embarrassed to ask about personal things. Others really go for it. I found that some people wanted to ask me about being queer; others just wanted to discuss feminism."

One reader told her he had never talked to someone who was queer before. "I assured him that he had but just didn't know it," says Majewski.

Both she and Langley say they enjoyed the time they spent with other books waiting to be checked out.

"We called ourselves the book-shelf," says Langley. "We all wanted to hear each other's story, and it was an amazing chance to see the world through another's eyes in an atmosphere of respect."

Maintaining that atmosphere of respect is crucial, says Kaufman. "Both the books and readers are told they can end the discussion at any time if they feel uncomfortable, but we've had no instances of that happening. In fact, we've had very positive evaluations from both groups."

Adds Majewski: "I think this is a rare instance where it's OK to reduce people to labels because once the participants start talking, they see how much more there is to you than just the label. You're rarely provided with an opportunity like this where you can ask all the questions you're not supposed to ask."

For a complete list of available books and to sign up to borrow one, visit the website http://academic.townsquare.lib.uoguelph.ca/human_library/book_a_book.html.



University professor emeritus O. P. Dwivedi turned to yoga four years ago to help deal with a health issue and is now a trained yoga instructor who is offering a free class on campus. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

'A Peaceful and Tranquil Place'

Retired political scientist dedicated to improving the lives of people living in poverty

BY TERESA PITMAN

FOUR YEARS AGO, University professor emeritus O. P. Dwivedi's cardiologist told him the blood flow to his heart was blocked in four places. When other medical issues made surgery to place stents in his arteries impossible, Dwivedi took what might seem to be an unusual step: he began doing yoga.

"After two years, my cardiologist found all the blockages were gone," he says. "Since then, everything has been fine. That's due to yoga and living a disciplined life."

After seeing how much yoga helped him, Dwivedi trained to be-

come a yoga instructor and is now offering a free class every Friday from noon to 12:45 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre.

"Anyone can do this pran yoga because it doesn't require any rigorous physical postures," he says. "It's all about breathing exercises."

Maintaining good health is important to the retired political scientist because he continues to be actively involved in teaching, writing, research, serving on U of G's Multi-Faith Resource Team and improving the lives of people living in poverty.

About 10 years ago while touring North India, he discovered that

many people there had cataracts and were going blind.

"This was especially true of women because they are often seen as less important," says Dwivedi. "So when I came back, I talked to my wife and children, and we decided to sell our summer house in Warton and take our savings to India and build a hospital."

Sushila Devi Eye Hospital opened in 2008 and has two doctors and five technicians, along with a walk-in clinic. Last year, more than 8,500 people were seen at the hospital for eye examinations and tests. Many were treated with medication,

Continued on page 10

Figure Skaters Capture Third OUA Gold

Gryphons skate their way to provincial championship for second year in a row

U OF G'S FIGURE-SKATING team won the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championships for the second year in a row last week. It's the third time the Gryphons have captured the title.

Members of the Guelph team brought home four gold medals, three silvers and one bronze after two days of competition at RIM Park in Waterloo. Head coach Janet Gibson was named OUA coach of the

year, and skaters who earned gold medals in individual events were named OUA all-stars.

A gold medal went to third-year B.Comm. student Krista Ricciatti and first-year B.Sc. student Tessa Mailling in senior similar pairs. Third-year B.Sc. students Laura Barbison and Ariel Porty captured top spot in senior silver similar dance. Rebecca Wilkes, a third-year B.Comm. student, and Christine

Kucava, a first-year B.A.Sc. student, earned gold in the bronze rhythm dance fours.

The Gryphon synchronized team also won a gold medal.

Silver medalists were fourth-year BA student Charlotte Drewett in the senior silver free skate, Wilkes and Kucava in the STARSkate gold creative dance, and third-year B.Sc. student Sandra McCubbin in the senior silver solo dance.

A bronze medal went to U of G's pairs four team, which consisted of Mailling, fourth-year B.Sc. student Laura Stratton, third-year BA student Lauren Black and second-year B.Sc. student Charlotte Hoyle.

Guelph finished the competition with 78 points, eight more than the University of Western Ontario. The University of Waterloo was third. Guelph first won the OUA figure-skating championships in 1994.

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Enviropig Moves Ahead

Genetically modified pigs produce manure that is more environmentally friendly

BY LORI BONA HUNT

ENVIRONMENT CANADA has just announced that U of G has successfully satisfied the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act allowing the Enviropig™ to be produced using approved containment procedures.

Guelph has been producing a line of Enviropigs since 1999 strictly for scientific study. But the goal has always been to explore practical options for use of the technology to allow the animals to have positive impacts for both the environment and industry, says Prof. Steven Liss, associate vice-president (research services).

"U of G is a life sciences institution, and much of our research centres on how science can help us change lives and improve life," says

Liss. "Developing technology that provides a solution to a common environmental problem fits with this research philosophy."

The Enviropig was the first transgenic animal created to solve an environmental problem — phosphorus pollution in surface water and groundwater. The pigs are genetically modified so they can use a normally indigestible form of phosphorus in feed grains. As a result, they produce manure that is more environmentally friendly. Published scientific studies have confirmed phosphorus levels that are 30 to 65 per cent lower than those of regular pig manure.

Applications to other federal agencies to assess the safety of Enviropigs for human food and animal feed are currently under review both in the United States and Can-

ada, says Liss, and it's not known when these reviews will be completed.

U of G is the sole owner and producer of the animals, which are kept in secure facilities. Working closely with the government, Guelph will continue to breed the animals under strict confinement and control measures, he says.

Liss adds that information on the technology has been available to the public for some time, including in a field journal, on U of G websites and in the mainstream media.

"This has been a transparent process. The University researchers involved in this project are very driven and passionate about addressing an important environmental problem while increasing options that might be useful for adoption by industry in many parts of the world."

Shenkman Lecture March 10

Curator to discuss transformation of the museum from mausoleum to mass spectacle

WONA BLAZWICK, curator of Whitechapel Gallery in London, England, will give the fourth annual Shenkman Lecture in Contemporary Art March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. Hosted by the School of Fine Art and Music (SOFAM), the event is free and open to the public.

"Wona Blazwick is one of the most influential and admired directors and curators in contemporary art," says Prof. Robert Enright, University research professor in art criticism in SOFAM.

"She has been involved in many of Britain's most important public art galleries. Before becoming a curator and museum director, she worked with Phaidon, the great art publisher in Britain, and initiated two series of art books, one on themes in contemporary art and the other the famous 'Contemporary

Artists,' a series of monographs on living artists. These have become indispensable aids to understanding the work of a wide range of contemporary artists."

From publishing, Blazwick moved on to the world of art galleries. She was director of exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art and head of exhibitions and displays at Tate Modern before becoming curator at Whitechapel. There, she oversaw a major expansion project that took two years, cost some \$20 million and tripled the size of the art museum.

Whitechapel had first attracted attention in 1939 when it displayed Picasso's anti-war painting *Guernica* and used it to raise funds for anti-Fascist fighters during the Spanish Civil War. To honour that history, Blazwick arranged for an installation that included a tapestry replica of

Guernica borrowed from the United Nations in New York to mark the grand reopening of the enlarged gallery in 2009.

The title of Blazwick's March 10 talk is "Just What Is It That Makes Today's Institutions So Different, So Appealing?" She will explore the transformation of the museum from mausoleum to mass spectacle and discuss the implications for artists and audiences in the 21st century.

The Shenkman Lectures are funded through a donation by Dasha Shenkman, a Canadian art collector now living in the United Kingdom.

In conjunction with the lecture, MFA students and undergraduate students in the specialized studio program in SOFAM host their annual open studios March 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. in Blackwood Hall, the Fire Hall and the Axelrod Building.

Nominees Sought for 2010 Winegard Volunteer Awards

U OF G, THE UNITED WAY of Guelph and Wellington and the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington are calling for nominations for the fourth annual Dr. William Winegard Exemplary Volunteer Involvement Awards.

Named in honour of former University of Guelph president and former Guelph MP Bill Winegard,

the awards recognize members of the University community who have devoted volunteer time and effort in Guelph and Wellington County.

Current U of G staff, faculty and students who volunteer with community organizations, including municipal boards, community fundraising, non-profits and community social health and service agencies,

are eligible for the awards.

The deadline for nominations is March 12. Nomination packages are available at www.volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca under "What's New" or by calling the Volunteer Centre at 519-822-0912.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony April 1 in advance of National Volunteer Week.

at GUELPH

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TRANSCANADA INSTITUTE HOSTS INTERDISCIPLINARY GRAD STUDENT CONFERENCE

An interdisciplinary graduate student conference on "Future Theory, Present Praxis: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Thinking and Acting 'Timely'" runs Feb. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the TransCanada Institute, 9 University Ave. E. Keynote speaker is Imre Szeman, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta. She will discuss "The Cultural Politics of Oil: On Lessons of Darkness and Black Sea Files" at 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit the website www.uoguelph.ca/~future.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

U of G's 2010 Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference is calling for presentation proposals. Sponsored by the College of Arts and the College of Physical and Engineering Science, the May 11 conference will focus on collaborative teaching and learning. The deadline to submit a proposal is March 12. For more information, go to www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli, send email to tlicon@uoguelph.ca or call Mary Nairn in Teaching Support Services at Ext. 53571.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC SET

Canadian Blood Services is holding a blood donor clinic March 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Peter Clark Hall. To book an appointment, call 1-888-2-DONATE.

FOCUS ON PHARMACEUTICALS

The Environmental Science Research Initiative is sponsoring a free workshop on "Pharmaceuticals in the Environment: Lesson Learned" Feb. 27 starting at 9 a.m. in the science complex atrium. For more information, visit the website www.comparativephys.ca/ESRI_Workshop.

Panel to Discuss Challenges in Haiti

MEMBERS of the campus and Guelph communities are invited to attend a panel discussion Feb. 24 on the challenges Haitians face in reconstructing their country and how the international community can support their efforts. It runs from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 113 of the MacNaughton Building. Hosted by the Office of Intercultural Affairs, Leadership and Community Engagement in Student Life and the C.J. Munford Centre, the event is free, but donations will be accepted, and proceeds will go to the Haitian Red Cross and Partners in Health.

Moderator of the panel discussion is Prof. Byron Sheldrick, chair of the Department of Political Science.

Panelists are Prof. Nonita Yap, Environmental Design and Rural Development; Prof. Manish Raizada, Plant Agriculture; Prof. Michael Keefe, English and Theatre Studies; and Mary Skerrett of Haiti Action Guelph.



U of G research associate Subramanyam Ragupathy, centre, conducts an ethnobotanical survey in India with Althaf Kabeer of the Botanical Survey of India, left, and Vadaman Chakkan Palanisamy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUBRAMANYAM RAGUPATHY

Shastri Institute Supports Botanist's Work in India

U of G team will continue studies of indigenous knowledge, cultural uses of plants

BY ANDREW VOWLES

HELPING TO PROTECT both plants and people in the developing world is the focus of research by a Guelph botanist that attracted funding late last year from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Prof. Steven Newmaster, Integrative Biology, and his research team will use the three-year \$80,000 grant from the institute to continue their studies of indigenous knowledge and cultural uses of plants in southern India.

The group will mix social science and botany in studies of plants used by indigenous people. Newmaster says he hopes to help native communities survive and prevent loss of genetic resources.

"We're helping them protect what they see as biodiversity rather than what we see as biodiversity. We are interested in biodiversity on a local scale, not just western but also other cultures."

He will work with indigenous communities through the Centre for Biocultural Diversity based in Chennai in Tamil Nadu state. The communities number perhaps 3,000 people each.

Newmaster wants to look more closely at differences between men and women and between people of different ages when it comes to plant lore.

"Women have a different knowledge body about biodiversity than men do," he says.

Typically, men look at plants for use in food, shelter or landscape, whereas women consider classification for food and medicine. The project will involve training of indigenous people, especially girls.

Newmaster is also struck by how much younger Indians, including children, know about plants, particularly compared with Canadian youngsters. "They have a concept of biodiversity at quite a young age."

Besides preserving indigenous knowledge, the team hopes to help people reclaim areas lost to other uses, including — paradoxically — nature preserves established by governments.

"These people want to be part of the landscape," says Newmaster.

"We're helping them protect what they see as biodiversity rather than what we see as biodiversity. We are interested in biodiversity on a local scale, not just western but also other cultures."

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute promotes joint activities intended to achieve gender equality and reduce poverty.

"This award is a kind of honour to the tribal people who are the source of traditional knowledge gained over thousands of years," says research associate Subramanyam Ragupathy, who is working in India this winter.

Newmaster and his lab partners study ethnobotany, or how people employ local plants for food, shelter, medicine and other uses. They've worked with researchers in Peru and Costa Rica as well as India, and Newmaster hopes to begin another plant biodiversity project in Bhutan

in 2011.

Since the fall, PhD student Kevan Berg has been working in Taiwan at Providence University, home base of his ecologist co-adviser, Yih-Ren Lin. Berg studies indigenous knowledge and classification of habitats, including how local people and western scientists view the ecology of an area.

He will work with tribal residents of Smangus, one of the most remote villages in the country. Describing the site in a recent email, Berg wrote: "Three to four hours off the main highways, high up narrow, winding and precipitous mountain roads — and there it sits perched in the clouds high on the edge of bamboo- and pine-covered mountains."

Because of the remoteness of Smangus and an ancient cypress forest nearby, ecotourism has become the village's mainstay. Analyzing habitats could help improve that business, says Berg. For example, "habitat signs constructed along the paths would inform tourists of each particular ecosystem they're walking through."

Studying plants and cultures in Asia also holds an allure for Newmaster's daughter Annabel, a third-year anthropology student who identifies and prepares plant specimens for U of G's herbarium. From an early age, she and her sister spent summers travelling around Canada and collecting plants with their dad.

For the summer, Annabel has a job as a naturalist at Lake Superior Provincial Park, but she hopes to visit Asia to learn about traditional knowledge of plants.

"That would be amazing," she says.

people

SWIMMERS CAPTURE GOLD AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Gryphon swimmers Andrew Ford of Guelph and Chantique Payne of Brantford won national titles at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) swimming championships in Toronto on the weekend. These are the first CIS gold medals Gryphon swimmers have won since 2000/01. Ford won gold in the 100-metre backstroke and the 200m individual medley, as well as a silver medal in the 200m backstroke. Payne captured gold in the 50m butterfly and bronze in the 100m butterfly. In addition, Bethany Flemington won bronze in the 50m backstroke.

PROFS PART OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR INAUGURAL DAIRY CONFERENCE

Profs. Vern Osborne, Animal and Poultry Science, and Ken Leslie, Population Medicine, are members of the organizing committee for the first North American Conference on Precision Dairy Management, which runs March 2 to 5 in Toronto. Dairy researchers, producers and industry leaders from around the world will attend the conference, which aims to revolutionize the dairy industry. U of G presenters include Profs. David Kelton and Stephen LeBlanc, Population Medicine; Prof. Trevor DeVries, Kemptville Campus; and OVC researchers Cindy Todd, Kimberley Painter and Nuria Chapinal.

RUGBY GRYPHON TO PLAY FOR CANADA IN PORTUGAL

Women's rugby Gryphon Michelle Joslin of Waterloo has been selected to represent Team Canada at the fourth annual FISU world university women's rugby sevens championships July 21 to 24 in Portugal.

COACH TO CO-ORDINATE UNDER-18 FOOTBALL TEAMS

Assistant football coach Bill Brown, defensive and recruiting co-ordinator for the Gryphons, has been named the special teams co-ordinator for the 2010 under-18 Ontario West football program in the Ontario Football Alliance.

The following appointments were announced recently at U of G:

- Gisele Angel, alumni advancement special projects assistant, Alumni Affairs and Development
- Meaghan Gibson, technology transfer and agreements assistant, Business Development Office
- Sean Kenny, building mechanic 4, Physical Resources
- Wendy Morley, library technician, U of G Library
- Clifford Morrison, shipper/receiver, University Centre administration
- Elizabeth Reier, wash-up technician, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Morag Stewart, alumni advancement manager for the Ontario Agricultural College, Alumni Affairs and Development
- Lily Zhou, learning and development assistant, Human Resources



Systems design is the research interest of newly arrived engineering professor Fantahun Defersha.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Ford Had It Partly Right

Building better systems is key to custom products, says U of G engineer

BY TERESA PITMAN

HENRY FORD ONCE SAID, in the days of the Model T, that potential buyers could have a car in any colour they wanted, as long as it was black. Those days are long gone. Not only do today's consumers want their cars in a rainbow of colour options, but they're looking for customization of other details as well.

"This is also true in many other industries," says Prof. Fantahun Defersha, Engineering. "It's no longer possible in many cases to manufacture in large quantities because customers want things done to their own specifications."

What companies need is a system that's both efficient and flexible, says Defersha, and that's at the heart of his research.

"I study systems design using computer models that can help manufacturers make systems that can be easily reconfigured when needed and that avoid bottlenecks and other problems that reduce efficiency."

Defersha grew up in Ethiopia and obtained an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at Addis Ababa University. He then lectured

at the university for three years before heading to India to do a master's degree at Roorkee University. After returning to Ethiopia, he lectured at Addis Ababa for another two years.

By 2002, he had decided to do a doctorate and was considering his options. A friend who was studying at Concordia University in Montreal suggested he come to Canada and recommended him to a Concordia professor. Defersha and his family were soon living in Montreal.

"The weather was a big change for us," he admits. "In Addis Ababa, the weather is mild all the time. It never gets really hot or really cold. Canada has been quite different."

After completing his PhD, Defersha worked as a research associate at Concordia for three years until joining U of G last month.

He describes his research as having two parts. The first, which was his focus during his doctoral and post-doc research, studies the systems process.

"It's about how machines are configured, how operators are assigned — that kind of thing — to yield the most efficient results."

He has studied this using simulations, mathematical modelling and related methods of understanding

the processes.

Now Defersha hopes to move his research from systems science to technology.

"The question I want to answer now is, 'How can we design machines so they can be more easily reconfigured when needed?'"

The principles of design and systems organization will be the same in any manufacturing process, he says.

Guelph is an ideal location for his research because it's central to many manufacturing companies, says Defersha, who hopes to find industrial partners for his studies.

Teaching is another passion for the engineer. "I have many years of experience as a teacher and lecturer, so it's an area where I feel very comfortable," he says.

Away from the classroom and lab, he devotes most of his time to his family and spiritual life. His wife and two young children remained behind in Montreal and were originally scheduled to arrive in Guelph in May, but Defersha says he's been missing them so much, they're going to come in March instead.

"Playing with my kids is what makes me happy," he says. "We all have a child inside us who needs to play."

Finding Chemistry Across the Border

Fulbright visiting chair studies corrosion reactions

BY ANDREW VOWLES

GREG ZIMMERMAN was heading for his high school parking lot when he learned that an accident had occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant about 18 kilometres away. His first clue was the school principal barring his exit from the building.

"I thought he was joking," says Zimmerman, "but he got really mad."

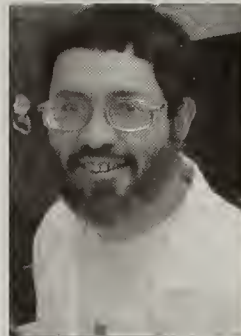
That teenager is now a physical chemist at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, studying high-temperature conditions in experiments that may help in designing cooling systems for future generations of nuclear reactors. This year as a Canada-U.S. Fulbright visiting chair at Guelph, he is working with a leader in the field: Prof. Peter Tremaine, Chemistry.

Zimmerman studies corrosion reactions in water under high temperature and pressure, key to anyone designing or maintaining steam-generating utilities, including reactors. Tremaine's lab is one of only a few groups worldwide with technical instruments allowing scientists to precisely measure the properties of reactive chemical species in water under such extreme conditions.

Along with the lab team, Tremaine and Zimmerman are calibrating and refining an experimental device at Guelph used to make those exacting measurements up to 400 C. The only other instrument of its kind is at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Last year, Tremaine received new funding to continue studies intended to help in designing nuclear power reactors. So-called fourth-generation reactors expected to be in use by about 2030 will use high-pressure supercritical water up to 600 C, about twice as hot as steam used in conventional facilities.

The Guelph scientist studies water chemistry, including exotic materials to be used in those reactors. Referring to concerns about burning fossil fuels, Tremaine says: "It's impossible to envision a solution to



Greg Zimmerman

greenhouse-gas emissions that does not include nuclear energy."

Zimmerman says nuclear power poses its own challenges, not the least of which is safe and permanent disposal of waste. But he says nuclear generation needs to remain an option among alternatives to fossil fuels. In fact, U.S. President Barack Obama's latest proposed budget has billions of dollars for the construction of new nuclear power plants. Most of the roughly 400 reactors operating worldwide were built in the 1970s and '80s.

Zimmerman grew up in Mount Joy in Pennsylvania, about 90 minutes south of the capital, Harrisburg. In March 1979, an accident caused a partial meltdown at the Three Mile Island power reactor nearby.

Barred from leaving school at noon that day, he went to his chemistry class, where his teacher was holding a Geiger counter out the window to check for radiation levels. Nothing was registering, he recalls.

Although no significant radiation was released, the accident caused deep public concern and dramatically slowed construction of new reactors in the United States and Europe, says Zimmerman.

"I felt a deep conviction that reactors must be fail-safe and that scientists have an obligation to ensure they are."

He had already caught the chemistry bug as a middle-schooler, using an old chemistry set to do experiments and even writing a Grade 8 speech about nuclear waste.

This year he's on research leave from Bloomsburg University. He's living in Guelph with his wife, Kathy, and their three sons: Andrew, Joseph and David. Their time here has given them a new look at their northern neighbour.

They've tried curling and hockey and have hiked around Guelph, Elora and Niagara Falls. Andrew even sang Canada's national anthem at a Guelph Hurricanes game with a group from Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School.

"A big part of the Fulbright is getting to know Canada," says Zimmerman, who's found Canadians to be generally amenable and approachable — "except driving on the 401."

Toward a Litmus Test for Food Toxins

BY ANDREW VOWLES

DEVELOPING PAPER STRIPS that can detect pesticide residues in water — a sort of pregnancy test for toxic chemicals — is a goal of Prof. Stephen Seah, Molecular and Cellular Biology. He also hopes to harness microbial enzymes to treat those toxins and reduce the risk of human health threats.

Seah is part of a cross-Canada team of scientists studying ways to use bioactive paper to detect and treat a variety of nasty substances, from toxic residues in drinking water to pathogens on food-preparation surfaces. The researchers hope to de-

velop simple tests that yield results more cheaply and rapidly than the conventional route of sending samples to a testing laboratory.

The Sentinel Bioactive Paper Network — funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council — involves about 30 researchers at 13 universities and institutes. Other network members at Guelph are food science professor Mansel Griffiths, who studies viruses for sensing and deactivating bacteria, and environmental sciences professor Chris Hall, whose interest is recombinant antibodies.

Seah is developing paper intended to detect pesticides in foods.

He envisions paper strips that will react to chemical residues in a water sample and change colour, like indicators in a home pregnancy kit.

"It's like a litmus test for this particular organophosphate," he says.

Seah also hopes to use naturally occurring bacterial enzymes to degrade these organophosphates, including the diazinon and chlorpyrifos often found in pesticides. These chemicals affect the nervous system of target insects but may also cause symptoms such as nausea and dizziness in people.

"There is some concern about the toxicity of organophosphates in humans, and I'm trying to develop an

easy way to detect them."

Much of his research is fundamental, looking at enzyme structure and function. He's also intrigued by bacteria's ability to disable compounds, including active ingredients in pesticides in use for only decades.

"How can bacteria in this short evolutionary time span evolve such an efficient enzyme to degrade these organophosphates?"

Seah studied microbiology in Singapore and biochemistry for his PhD at the University of Sheffield. Following post-doctoral stints at Laval University and the University of British Columbia, he came to Guelph about 10 years ago.

Gifts That Keep on Giving

BY TERESA PITMAN

"MY LIGHT-BULB moment happened when I was an undergraduate student," says Lisa Woodcock, associate director, annual fund, in Alumni Affairs and Development. "I was working part-time as a student caller doing telefundraising for Queen's University, and I loved it. I was talking to people about something I believed in. And I realized I could do this for a living."

After graduation, she worked in fundraising at Queen's for five years before applying for her current position. What drew her to U of G?

"I like what Guelph stands for, and I'd met many of the people working here at conferences and professional development programs. When this opportunity came up, I knew this was where I wanted to be." She arrived here in October.

As associate director, annual fund, Woodcock is responsible for the strategic annual solicitation of alumni, friends, employees and retirees of the University, as well as the parents of current students. She calls the annual fund "the lifeblood of the University" because it represents donors who give to Guelph every year — not just for a special project or major campaign — because they believe in the importance and value of U of G's programs.

"The annual fund ensures that we have technology that works, up-to-date books in the library and all the other everyday things that make the institution work," she says.

Annual gifts are the type of gift most people can make — smaller than major capital investments — but they can have a big impact, says Woodcock.

"People may not realize how important their \$25 or \$50 donation can be. It adds up. If we had \$25 from every U of G graduate, for example, it would have a huge impact in supporting the University's fundraising priorities."

Currently, much of her day is spent developing fundraising strategies and planning for the year. Her goal is to significantly increase the number of annual donors and the dollar amount of individual donations.

An important component of annual fundraising is the student call centre, which employs about 40 students part-time to stay in



Lisa Woodcock describes U of G's annual fund as "the lifeblood of the University."

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

touch with alumni, friends and parents.

"The students are fantastic ambassadors for the University," says Woodcock. "They also help us keep our finger on the pulse of alumni. If people are upset about something that's going on, we'll hear about it. If they're pleased with something we're doing, we'll hear about that, too."

For parents, U of G provides an opportu-

nity to enrich their children's scholarly work and learning experiences through donations to the Parents' Fund, which supports the U of G Library. The fund strengthens library resources by enabling the purchase of thousands of additional materials each year, including books, journals and databases, she says.

Of course, U of G faculty, staff and retirees are also an essential part of annual fundraising.

In 2005, the University established the Cornerstone Fund specifically for members of the campus community to channel their donations directly to Guelph's highest-priority needs. Woodcock believes such donations are essential.

"We need to demonstrate that our internal partners are committed to a cause before we can raise funds outside the University."

She adds that she was pleasantly surprised by the potential for fundraising growth when she arrived at U of G.

"The average Canadian university gets annual donations from 10 to 15 per cent of its alumni. At Guelph, the rate is currently less than 10 per cent. Yet we rank very high on all student exit surveys. This is a huge opportunity for us to tap into."

Philanthropy is close to Woodcock's heart. "I made a New Year's resolution two years ago to give to a different charity every month," she says. "Some months it has actually been a bit challenging to find a charity that I respected and cared about. But I've stuck to it, and I think it helps me have empathy for the donors I work with. I know their concerns and the competing demands they have to consider."

But seeing U of G as a worthy cause is easy, she says. "I believe passionately in what I do here. The University touches every part of our lives. Do you have a pet? Then you know the research done at OVC is vital. Do you shop at the grocery store and wonder about the safety of the food you buy? It's U of G research that helps make sure it's safe. Beyond that, Guelph prepares students to be caring, committed citizens of the world, and that affects everyone."

As she puts her strategic planning into place, Woodcock looks forward to having more opportunities to meet with alumni and other donors to discuss their contributions and the needs of the University.

"If you're a graduate, it's an investment in the value of your own degree," she says. "If the reputation of the University grows, then people consider your degree more valuable. I see my job as enabling people to give back when they choose."

Woodcock believes fundraising is the most fulfilling career she could have. "I see the results of my work every day. It's a great feeling."

Even Mom and Dad Can Learn

PhD student, Guelph-Humber instructor finds different audiences for message on healthful living

BY ANDREW VOWLES

ASK KERRY MULLEN'S parents about the take-home messages from her Guelph studies of exercise, nutrition and health. Both her mom and dad were obese before she began her B.Sc. here in 2000.

Now getting ready to defend her PhD thesis this spring in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences (HHNS), Mullen says her parents have both lost weight and are exercising more.

"I don't want to take all the credit, but I'm frequently a bug in their ears."

She's got another target for her message at the University of Guelph-Humber, where she teaches in the two-year-old kinesiology program.

In her research lab at Guelph, Mullen studies adiponectin, a hormone released from fat cells that affects insulin's impact in the body. She uses rodent models to look at how high-fat diets affect storage or use of fat in skeletal muscle.

High-fat diets are known to contribute to Type 2 diabetes, a growing health problem in North America. The disease can develop when the body fails to respond to insulin produced to use up glucose from food.

"Prevention or treatment of this disease is within our capacity," says Mullen. "We can treat it with diet and exercise."

Her supervisor, Prof. David Dyck, says it's important to look at how diabetes develops rather than just how to treat it.

"Trying to reverse the progression of obesity and insulin resistance in its early stages is preferable to reversing a greater degree of damage after many years," he says.

Although many researchers hope to find novel drug targets, Mullen is interested in lifestyle changes that might help control or prevent diabetes.

She had begun her studies in biochemistry but switched to nutrition after taking a course with HHNS professor emeritus Bruce Holub.

"I've always been interested in nutrition, exercise, health and well-being," she says. "His enthusiasm was infectious."

Mullen is currently training to run her first full marathon this spring. She has completed shorter distances since her first run with a high school group that aimed to raise awareness of organ donations after a friend's death in a car accident.

Having TA'd at Guelph, she was keen to get involved with the kinesiology program when it was launched at Guelph-Humber. She now spends two days a week there, teaching two third-year courses in exercise physiology and nutrition and metabolism.

More than 40 students will be the first to graduate from that program

this spring, says Elaine Popp, head of kinesiology at Guelph-Humber. More than 200 students are now enrolled throughout the four-year program, entering either in first year or in third year after earning a diploma in fitness and health promotion. Popp says she receives about 550 first-year applications each year.

About half of the program's instructors are from U of G.

"Kerry's research area was perfectly aligned with the learning outcomes embedded in our program," says Popp. "She was an ideal match."

Among those first graduates this spring will be Cassandra Emmett, who took both of Mullen's courses and worked in her lab last summer.

"I found her to be a great teacher with a lot of passion for the material," says Emmett.

Mullen will discuss her research March 15 at 3 p.m. in Room 241 of the Food Science Building.



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Reading Between the Lines

Poring over medieval manuscripts offers clues to early lives and times for U of G art historian

BY TERESA PITMAN

IT COULD BE AN EPISODE OF *CSI*. Here's the expert, leaning over a fragile document and examining it closely to determine which of several "suspects" wrote the lines in question. But in this case, there's no crime. The suspects are scribes from the 12th century who worked on a massive four-volume bible, and the expert counting lines and comparing handwriting is Prof. Dominic Marner of the School of Fine Art and Music.

Marner's interest in art history isn't about the placement of brushstrokes or the use of pigment.

"I see art as a way of accessing history," he says. "All art is the product of its culture, and the investigation of it can help you understand the world of that time."

The manuscripts of the 12th century don't always give up their stories easily, but Marner enjoys the close analysis the task requires.

"It's often complicated, and you have to put together a lot of little clues to get the information you're looking for. I find it a thrill to be able to see and study something that may be 1,000 years old. It's an incredible connection to the past."

Born in Tanzania, where his parents were teaching, Marner moved with his family to Saskatchewan, then to England and back to Canada. He earned his BA in religious studies and art history at the University of Regina and his MA in art history at the University of Victoria before heading back to England to do his PhD at the University of East Anglia.

After completing his doctorate, he spent close to a decade teaching and doing research in England, Scotland and Ireland before joining Guelph in 2004.



"I see art as a way of accessing history," says fine art professor Dominic Marner. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

"When I came here, I'd never been to southern Ontario other than Toronto, so I was pleasantly surprised," he says.

Marner's research focus has been medieval art. His original plan for his PhD was to study the manuscripts donated to England's Durham Ca-

thedral by Hugh du Puiset, who was bishop there until his death in 1195.

"Durham has a large library of manuscripts that have been there for hundreds of years — some of them for more than 1,000 years," says Marner.

Fortunately, the manuscripts

survived the upheavals and battles that destroyed the libraries of other cathedrals and monasteries. And many of the 75 manuscripts donated by Puiset are still kept there. But Marner found he had to scale down his original plan.

"I ended up working on just one book — a huge four-volume bible that Puiset had commissioned. What was interesting in this book was that the imagery all seemed to deal with death, loss and grief, and that's quite unusual."

Further research revealed that the man who had raised Puiset (actually his uncle) had died around the time the manuscript was started, and Marner concluded that the "very elaborate and luxurious" book was created in homage to the uncle.

Marner was also intrigued to find that the four volumes seem to have been worked on simultaneously by different scribes, which means the book was done more quickly than usual.

"There seems to have been about six of them, when most books at the time used only one or two scribes, so I am currently trying to understand who did what and will be writing a book about that."

Durham Cathedral inspired another research topic for Marner: the revival of St. Cuthbert. This work resulted in a book titled *St. Cuthbert: His Life and Cult in Medieval Durham*, published in 2000 by University of Toronto Press.

Cuthbert died in 687, and the process of declaring him a saint began a few years later when a book describing his life and the miracles he performed was written. His tomb became a popular place of pilgrimage, and many miracles were reported at his grave. After a number of moves, his bones were eventually

placed in Durham Cathedral, where he continued to draw many pilgrims.

In 1170, however, Thomas Beckett was killed in Canterbury Cathedral by the king's soldiers and became a saint soon afterwards.

"In response, an important new copy of the book on St. Cuthbert's life was made, with more than 40 full-page images of the saint performing various miracles," says Marner. "Cuthbert had also been viewed as being very misogynous, but in the new story of his life, many of his miracles were done to help women. It was all about making him a friendlier saint."

The revised St. Cuthbert helped Durham Cathedral compete for pilgrims with Canterbury, and that competition intrigues Marner.

"You have to consider who is constructing these ideas and stories about the saints and what they're getting out of it. This is a good example of how saints were used by the community at different periods of time."

For Marner, the libraries where historical documents are stored are also sources of hidden treasure.

"It's wonderful when you find something you didn't know was there. When I was working in Cambridge, I had access to many ancient texts, including Sir Isaac Newton's notes and Charles Darwin's materials. I worked on a manuscript that contains the earliest known Scottish Gaelic — one that has interesting links to Macbeth."

When he's not hunched over an elaborately decorated manuscript, Marner enjoys running (he has completed four half-marathons and one full marathon) and playing golf, but he spends much of his free time involved in after-school activities with his two children.

'Worm Test' Shows DNA Leaks

Study demonstrates that genetic material of preserved specimen can be obtained from preservative liquid

JUST BECAUSE you don't swallow the worm at the bottom of a bottle of mescal doesn't mean you've avoided the essential worminess of the potent Mexican liquor, say researchers at U of G's Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO).

They've discovered that mescal

itself contains the DNA of the agave butterfly caterpillar — the famously tasty "worm" that many avoid consuming.

Their findings will appear in the March issue of *BioTechniques*, which is available online now.

The BIO researchers set out to

test a hypothesis that DNA from a preserved specimen can leak into its preservative liquid. As part of their study, they tested a sample of liquid from a bottle of mescal. The liquor was found to contain DNA, which they amplified and sequenced to obtain a DNA barcode — telltale genetic material that identifies species of living things.

Comparing the sample with thousands of records of Lepidoptera DNA barcodes stored in the Barcode of Life Data Systems database at Guelph confirmed that the mescal

liquid contained DNA related to the agave's family.

"This is a surprising result," says Prof. Mehrdad Hajibabaei, Integrative Biology, the BIO's director of technology development.

He adds that mescal contains 40-per-cent ethanol and potentially many impurities that can degrade DNA.

"Showing that the DNA of a preserved specimen can be obtained from the preservative liquid introduces a range of important possibilities," he says. "We can develop

inexpensive high-throughput, field-friendly and non-invasive genetic analysis protocols for situations where the original tissue cannot be touched or when there is simply no sample left for analysis."

The scientists also successfully identified other "fresh" specimens contained in preservative ethanol — including whole insects (caddisflies and mayflies) and plant leaves — as well as seven preserved specimens collected seven to 10 years earlier.

The study is part of the technology development phase of the International Barcode of Life Project. Based at U of G, it's the largest biodiversity genomics project ever undertaken.

More than 200 scientists from 25 countries are creating a DNA barcode reference library for all life, developing new technologies to access it and applying DNA barcoding in economically, socially and environmentally beneficial ways.

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A Pact With the Universe

Scholar, storyteller and Guelph student brings ideas to life

By REBECCA KENDALL

IN 1991, A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL looked up to the skies above Jamaica and made a pact with the universe. "I said that if the universe allowed me to be a storyteller for the rest of the days of my life, I would try to be the best human being I could possibly be," says D'bi Young, a U of G master's student in theatre studies and one of Canada's most celebrated young artists. "That night changed it all."

Before making that pact, Young had performed in Jamaica's national theatre series. She says her performance was "amateur" because she'd been shouting and lost her voice. "I was really giving it all I had."

The daughter of one of Jamaica's pioneer dub poets, Young has clearly regained her voice and power as a performer.

She is currently touring three plays, *blood.claat*, *benu* and *word! powah!* from her biomyth monodrama trilogy, *sankofa*. She is also touring with poetry, workshops and lectures. She received the Toronto Arts Council Foundation's 2007 Emerging Artist Award and was featured at Heritage Toronto's Great Canadian Roast. She has also recorded five albums and written two collections of dub poetry. Her latest album, *womaniifesto*, is scheduled for release later this year. She is currently playwright-in-residence at the CanStage Theatre and a member of the Tarragon Playwrights Unit.

Although Young may at times credit the universe for coming through for her, she also credits her mother, who raised her among a strong community of poets, actors and writers.

Young started acting when she was three and studied at the Edna Manley School of the Performing Arts in her early teens.

Growing up in the working-class district of Whitfield, she saw the struggles of the working poor and their vocal demonstrations of dissatisfaction with the policies that kept them there. She often questioned whether poverty was forever or if it was just for right now. For her, this was where life and art merged and where words led to social action.

"It was a beginning of my observation of how class works and how class shifts and changes," she says.

Young adds that her observations became even more acute after she moved to Toronto in 1993.

"When I came here at 15, the divide between art and life became more apparent. Even then, I realized very quickly that my identity here in Canada as a black woman, as a queer woman or as a mother — all those things — would influence how I was treated and would influence whatever I was talking about. I remember coming to Canada being in my own body and seeing how things can change and how you can mean one thing in one culture and a whole other thing in another culture. It's really about the relativity of the perception."

She turned those perceptions into action and used them as an opportunity to explore her identity, and her pact with the

universe began to blossom.

Over the past decade, Young has grown as a storyteller, captivating audiences as a poet, a singer, a writer and an actor. She has taken her talents to audiences throughout Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe. Some of her most notable moments include a spot on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, a role in the London stage version of *'Da Kink in My Hair* and being cast in *Lord Have Mercy*, Canada's first black sitcom.

She is also the founder and artistic director of Toronto's anitafrika! dub theatre, a residency program that mentors 10 to 15 artists each year in the genre of biomyth-solo-creation. Classes at the theatre are designed to be accessible to everyone, including emerging artists, street people, youth, differently abled people, aboriginal people, people with intellectual challenges and those who have been socially marginalized or discriminated against in some way.



"Monodrama allows me to have the most control over my art and my image," says Young. "and I'm teaching because I believe that much of our own power has been taken away from us as artists. We're being cajoled, coerced and seduced into making ourselves into an image that we don't control. Sometimes we're so far from that image. We have to hide our sexuality. We have to hide our true desires, our true thoughts, how we speak, who we keep as friends. There's just a lot of hiding that happens, but with monodrama, I'm in my own driver's seat. We need more people to be in their own driver's seat."

Young's love of teaching has played a big role in her return to school. She says what she learns at Guelph will be invaluable as she helps to train a new generation of writers and performers at anitafrika! She adds that she owes a lot of her methodology to people such as Audre Lorde, Bell Hooks, Frantz Fanon and George Eliot Clarke.

"There's always been a relationship between my work and these mainly black African theorists who located themselves in revolutionary struggle and revolutionary change. In Canada, we have these black scholars and theorists who have really influenced my work. I really do believe there are storytellers in all walks of life, including academia. I don't believe I'm going to get answers, but I do believe I'm going there to get stimulated and to have another part of me challenged."

Working under the supervision of Prof. Ric Knowles, Young is studying biomyth monodrama and its relationship to social change. But why would someone with her experience as a writer and performer take the time to go back to school amid the bustle of a successful career and raising two sons, aged five and one?

"I don't believe anyone ever stops learning, and I hope I will always continue to learn," she says. "I was really impressed by the people I would have access to while at Guelph, such as Ric. He is really important to me. I really appreciate the work he's doing. He's a fantastic elder in terms of helping to guide me. Many of the faculty have taken the time to communicate with me and have reminded me that if you ask for guidance, you will get it. I think too often we forget to ask."

Despite her success as a scholar and a storyteller, she says her most rewarding role is being a mother. Much like the team that works behind her to make her one-woman show a success night after night, a host of aunts, uncles and friends give her a hand with the boys while she's juggling her work and school.

"I have my children around me all the time, and they're absorbing the energy," she says. "I don't know what that's going to do to them," she laughs, "but I do know they see that I'm not somebody different when I'm with them and then someone completely different when I'm not with them. What they see is the same thing."

To learn more about Young and the anitafrika! dub theatre, go to www.dbiyoung.net.

PHOTO BY NANCY PAI

Human Population, World Problems Focus of Writings

By ANDREW VOWLES

ARAPIDLY GROWING human population — and attendant environmental problems — is a major theme in a new collection of columns by Prof. Jack Trevors, School of Environmental Sciences, published last month by an international science journal.

A special online supplement of *Water, Air and Soil Pollution* contains 50 editorial columns written or co-written by Trevors, who has been

editor-in-chief of the publication for 12 years. The journal is published about nine times a year by Springer, based in the Netherlands and Germany. It can be viewed online at www.springerlink.com/content/x672x83551j8/?sortorder=asc.

Articles in the online supplement discuss varied topics, including climate change, agriculture, education, pollution and environment, governance, science and religion. Many address issues linked to a rapidly expanding human population, cur-

rently about 6.9 billion and projected to reach nine billion by about 2050. Many people live on less than \$1 a day in parts of the world lacking basic infrastructure and other services, says Trevors, who is currently on research leave.

Growing populations trigger such problems as poverty, pollution, accumulation of greenhouse gases, resource depletion and loss of biodiversity, he says. "We're too overpopulated. If we fix this, we fix a lot of other problems."

Much of the solution lies in finding creative ways to use science and technology, says Trevors. That's the same message he often shares with his microbiology classes on campus, often by asking one of his favourite questions: What's the most significant thing you know?

For him, the answer lies not in accumulating knowledge but in what he calls the power of the human imagination.

"I can use my imagination to solve problems. It's not so much

knowing something as knowing how to use your mind to do something, such as visualization of solutions and correct experimental designs."

He hopes this new collection of opinion articles — about half of the editorials he's written or co-written for the journal over the years — will stimulate discussion and ideas among academics, policy-makers and students. His co-authors include University of California, San Diego, biology professor Milton Saier, one of the journal's associate editors.

Guelph Set to Host Kin Games for First Time

FOUR HUNDRED kinesiology students from across Canada will descend on U of G March 5 to 7 to compete in the 2010 Kin Games. In honour of the 2010 Olympic Games, this year's theme is "Light Your Flame." This is the first time Guelph has hosted the event.

The CBS Student Association is organizing the Kin Games, which will see 16 teams competing in a variety of athletic and academic activities. They include an Amazing Race-style competition, Ultimate Frisbee, inner-tube water polo, road hockey and an intensive academic challenge.

Besides giving students a chance to network with peers, the games are

a great opportunity to showcase CBS and the University, says third-year student and Human Kinetics Student Association co-president Erika Howe, who participated in the 2009 Kin Games at the University of Lethbridge.

"We want people to really appreciate Guelph and all it has to offer," says Howe. "We have some of the best faculty and students in the country, and we're ready to represent our school."

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Kin Games can send email to guelph.kin.games@uoguelph.ca. For more information, visit www.kingames.ca/guelph.html.

CME Students Prepare Case for Competition

THE DECA PROVINCIAL business competition, which drew more than 5,000 high school students to Toronto this month, gave members of the College of Management and Economics (CME) an opportunity to work with prospective students on business-related tasks.

U of G's participation in the competition was again co-ordinated by Melanie Lang, director of CME's Centre for Business and Social Entrepreneurship. With Lang's help, the CME Students' Association prepared a case that required the high school students to plan Orientation Week activities specifically targeted

at incoming CME students. Each group had to plan three events, keeping in mind budget, safety and scheduling issues.

"We were extremely pleased with the quality of the presentations this year and look forward to the work we will see from them in the future, perhaps as CME students," says Lang.

The U of G case was judged by a nine-member team of CME senior undergraduate students, alumni and faculty. The top finalists from Guelph's case event are eligible to compete at this year's international conference in Kentucky.

BRIAN HUSBAND

Interim associate dean (academic) of the College of Biological Science and a faculty member in the Department of Integrative Biology, joined U of G in 1994

Despite the name, the Eden Mills Writers' Festival isn't just about people who write and read books. Prof. Brian Husband discovered that when he moved to Eden Mills four years ago and became acquainted with a nationally acclaimed professional musician living in the village.



Brian Husband

"The first day of the festival is about music composition, and there's a daylong workshop on jazz composition led by six professional jazz musicians," says Husband, who leads the team that organizes the workshop. At the end of the day, the workshop participants — primarily students — hear their composition played by the musicians and get feedback on their work.

"The students who attend absolutely love it and come back over and over," he says. "It's an incredible opportunity for them."

Putting the workshop together involves getting sponsors, recruiting participants, organizing the musicians, arranging for instruments and sorting out all the other details that need to be dealt with, says Husband.

"I do this because of my passion for jazz and my desire to see students have the kind of opportunity that's not usually available to them."

That passion for music is also why he joined the Royal City Big Band, an 18-piece jazz group that performs at charity fundraisers and public and corporate events. Husband plays the trombone.

"We've played at the Canada Day celebrations in Riverside Park for 10 of the last 11 years, and we're usually the last band before the fireworks."

As a biologist, Husband finds his interest in the natural world extends beyond his workday.

"I spend every spare moment I can outside. I'm a fairly serious amateur photographer, so I rarely go anywhere without my camera and binoculars. Lately I've been capturing images of the biological diversity and landscapes of the Eramosa River valley, right in our own backyard."

EVAN HANNA

Second-year biomedical sciences student

Evan Hanna, a member of U of G's First Response Team, vividly recalls the time he may have saved someone's life.



Evan Hanna

"I once had to administer epinephrine to someone having an anaphylactic allergic reaction," he says. "The ambulance was on its way, so it might have arrived in time anyway, but I'm glad I knew what to do."

Hanna is one of about 40 student volunteers who make up the First Response Team, a student-run program that provides emergency first-aid services to the campus weeknights from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. and 24 hours a day on weekends. Operating during the fall and winter semesters, the team is a division of St. John Ambulance.

As a supervisor, Hanna volunteers for one shift a week and oversees three other responders. Sometimes he's awakened six or seven times through the night, but other shifts involve only a couple of calls.

Team members are well-trained to deal with medical emergencies, he says.

"We take the advanced medical first responder training through St. John Ambulance. You can't get a higher level of training without going to college for two years and becoming a paramedic."

When on duty, Hanna carries a backpack stuffed with medical equipment, including an oxygen tank, an airway kit, saline to use on burns or wounds, a blood pressure cuff and a bag valve mask.

"When we're called out to help someone, we can do an assessment and check vital signs, treat minor problems and determine if further assistance is needed," he says. "If there are major injuries, we initiate treatment until the EMS arrives. Once an ambulance gets on scene, we provide the paramedics with a report and any pertinent information we've obtained, so they know what they're dealing with."

Team members have immediate access to emergency dispatchers through their radios.

Hanna is planning a career in medicine or as a paramedic, but that's not the case for all the first responders, he says. "We have a commerce major and a history major, among others."

Although his work as a first responder will enhance his résumé, Hanna says that's not the main reason he got involved. "It's a chance to feel like you're making a difference."

Anyone experiencing or seeing an emergency at the University can contact the First Response Team using one of the yellow call boxes on poles around campus or by calling Ext. 2000.

LILLIAN WILSON

Manager of total compensation in Human Resources, joined U of G in 1990

Peer pressure works. Lillian Wilson first donated blood when she was 18 and a high school student simply because a mobile blood donor clinic had come to her school and all her friends were donating. Since then, she's given blood another 100 times — showing up every 56 days for the chance to save someone's life.



Lillian Wilson

Actually, each blood donation can help three people, says Wilson. "Your blood is divided into three parts — white blood cells, plasma and red blood cells — and each part can be used for a different purpose."

Her blood is especially popular with Canadian Blood Services because it's type O negative. That means it can be given to anyone in an emergency situation without doing blood typing first. Only seven per cent of the population has this blood type.

Wilson says she's happy knowing her blood can help so many people, whether it's a cancer patient, a burn victim or someone who's been hurt in a car accident. Now her goal is to encourage others to donate. Naturally, she's started with her own family.

"When I gave my 100th donation, my 17-year-old daughter gave her first and my husband gave his 71st. The people at the clinic laugh when they see the Wilson family come in."

She adds that a friend was inspired to start donating after accompanying her to a recognition party held by Canadian Blood Services when Wilson had made 75 donations.

Wilson goes to the permanent clinic on Silvercreek Parkway. She makes an appointment and says the whole process generally takes only about an hour. And at the end, she points out, there are cookies. "That's really what keeps me going back — the cookies," she jokes.

For more information about donating blood, visit www.bloodservices.ca or call 1-800-2DONATE. That's also the number to call to make an appointment at your local blood donor clinic.

Editor's note: This is one in a series of columns on the tree species that can be found on the U of G campus. It is written by certified arborist Rob Shaw-Lukavsky, a gardener in the Grounds Department.

ON THE SOUTHEAST SIDE of the Bullring stands a large red ash tree that actually appears to be four trees because it has four distinct trunks rising from ground level. The trunks are all growing from a common root system and almost certainly started as "suckers" from the stump of another even larger tree.

Ash trees are reliable regrowers after a parent tree has been cut down or even after the above-ground portion of the tree has died. For whatever reason the original single trunk was removed from beside the Bullring, this ash had other plans and multiplied.

Many clumping trees begin life this way. Nurseries will trim back single-stemmed trees to force new sprouts either at ground level or just above to create the multi-stem habit commonly desired for land-

scape use.

Unfortunately, "suckers" are not structurally dependable, and dumping trees often qualify as higher-risk trees in terms of stability. For this reason, the Bullring tree is supported both high in the canopy with cables and just above ground level with heavy rods.

Sadly, it's unlikely that this tree will live long enough to succumb to either gravity or old age. Red ash, along with all other Ontario ashes, is at risk from the emerald ash borer, a particularly vicious and voracious pest.

Trees become infested with borers as they tunnel underneath the bark and girdle healthy trees. There is currently no treatment or preventive action that can be taken, so we should all appreciate the beauty of this tree while we can.

The only small consolation is that trees affected by the borer commonly regrow from the stumps.

Red ash is easily identified by its hairy twigs and undersides of the leaves. The wood is strong and durable and is often used for tool handles.

THE LAST ISSUE OF At GUELPH WILL BE PUBLISHED APRIL 7.
WE INVITE YOU TO READ CAMPUS NEWS AND FEATURES
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BEGINNING APRIL 12.

Finding the Right Fit

OAC PhD project looks for ways to design 'Goldilocks' spaces to get more people outside for exercise

BY ANDREW VOWLES

FOR MANY PEOPLE, the biggest barrier to regular exercising is not the body but the mind, says Natasha Kenny, a special graduate faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences (SES) and the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SED RD).

Getting past mental blocks by designing more fitness-friendly outdoor spaces — especially "Goldilocks" spaces that are neither too warm nor too cool but just right — is the purpose of a study involving Kenny and environmental scientists on campus.

In what sounds like a small-scale version of "build it and they will come," the Guelph researchers hope their work will help in planning out-

door spaces to lure fitness buffs and couch potatoes alike.

Plan suitable microclimates that draw more people into regular outdoor exercise, says Kenny, and you may lower the attendant health risks of physical inactivity, including heart disease, obesity and related conditions.

She is a committee member on a PhD project on outdoor thermal comfort and physical activity being conducted by varsity track athlete Jenni Vanos, who is supervised by SES professor Jon Warland.

Plenty of research has been done on indoor thermal comfort, says Warland, but few studies have considered climatic and biological conditions out of doors and how they affect people's feelings about exercise.

One exception was a paper published last year by Kenny and Warland — along with SED RD professor Robert Brown and SES professor emeritus Terry Gillespie — that looked at people walking, running and cycling for 30 minutes.

That paper, published in the *International Journal of Biometeorology*, was based on Kenny's own PhD thesis, completed with Brown and Gillespie two years ago. There, the researchers measured microclimate data — air temperature, wind speed, solar radiation, humidity — as well as the subjects' metabolic activity and "thermal sensation," or how warm or cool they felt.

They found that a COMFA model developed earlier by Brown and Gillespie needed refinement to account for more complicated and

variable outdoor conditions during exercise.

That's the point of work by Vanos, now about halfway into her PhD project. Last summer, she tested more runners and cyclists on Guelph's sports fields, monitoring microclimate variables as well as skin and core body temperatures.

For this research, the varsity runner is working not with elite athletes but with average individuals.

"I'm focusing on how to get the general public to go out and exercise," she says.

Besides their differing metabolism, elite athletes often have varying perceptions of their comfort during training in summer or winter, she says. "They're expecting to be uncomfortable and they're OK with it."

Still, even seasoned runners and

cyclists may misjudge conditions and suffer heat stress or hyperthermia. Vanos says her work may help athletes adjust to different training or competition environments or account for the effects of climate change. Staying even two or three degrees cooler may help an athlete train longer and harder with less exertion, she says.

This summer she plans to take her monitoring equipment back to the field with more sedentary subjects to learn more about psychological effects of exercise. Much of that equipment comes from Warland, who uses instruments for measuring effects of vegetation on weather and climate. "It's a measurement problem," he says.

Vanos notes that her work may help urban designers and policymakers develop outdoor spaces and materials suitable for exercise, particularly in dense inner-city neighbourhoods with relatively little green space.

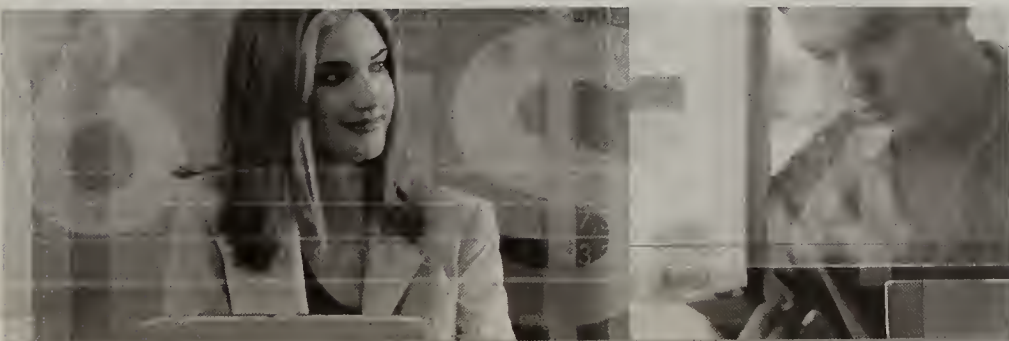
"I think urban designers have to take into consideration not just looks but also how people feel."

She studied earth and atmospheric sciences for her undergraduate degree, completed in 2008. A middle-distance specialist on Guelph's track-and-field team, she says she considers thermal comfort when training on city trails. Her favourite summertime run is a completely shaded route along the south side of the Speed River.

Along with Brown, Kenny studied microclimates in restored aggregate quarries to help preserve rare plants and animals. She's now an educational development associate in Teaching Support Services. A former competitive cyclist, she is currently training for a half-marathon.

Explaining that microclimate studies combine outdoor design, physics, human metabolism and meteorology, she says: "There's a very collaborative atmosphere at Guelph that helps support this. It covers all disciplines."

Warland says research in outdoor thermal comfort may also be useful in his volunteer work in weather safety and forecasting with St. John Ambulance.



As a student, you're thinking: "One day, I'll get my hands on some real money."
How's March 17, 2010?

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

First, sign up at cga-ontario.org/contest and obtain a user name, password, and choose your level of difficulty for the contest by Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

On Wednesday, March 17, 2010 login by 3 p.m.

The competition begins promptly at 4 p.m. (on that same day) and lasts one hour.

Eligibility is restricted to students currently enrolled at an Ontario university or college.

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Eligible and registered students choose between two levels of difficulty; both levels offer cash and scholarship prizes (see 'A Rewarding Experience' for details). Choose your level carefully — this decision could earn or cost you cash, that is, a realistic chance at being in the winners' circle.

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Study Examines Hand Hygiene in Veterinary Clinics

OVC grad student to observe clinicians, technicians

BY BARRY GUNN

FREQUENT HANDWASHING is one of the most effective ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness, but it's also frequently ignored, even in hospitals, where studies have shown that physicians are often the worst offenders.

That phenomenon piqued the curiosity of Ontario Veterinary College graduate student Maureen Anderson, who is investigating hand-hygiene compliance in veterinary clinics with the support of a three-year PhD fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

"People working in human hospitals are certainly aware that their patients can be infectious and that they can infect their patients, and they know they should wash their hands to minimize the risk," says Anderson, who earned her DVM from OVC in 2003 and her D.V.Sc. in 2008.

"In veterinary clinics and in homes, millions of people are in close contact with animals every day, but they might not consider the risks of infection, despite evidence that pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile* may be zoonotic."

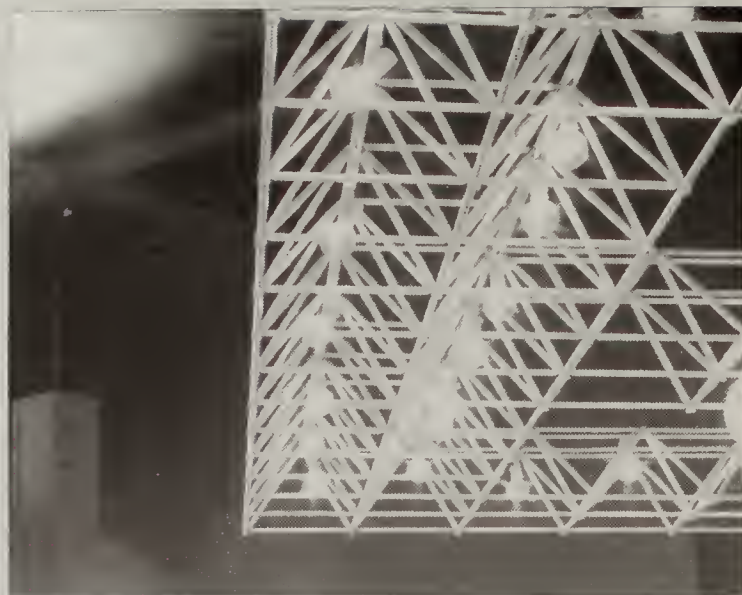
For her study, she will survey the staff of participating vet clinics and use cameras to monitor activity in their busy treatment areas. This will provide baseline data about hand-hygiene compliance. She will also evaluate the impact of clinic layout and educational interventions on handwashing.

"We want to find out what clinicians and technicians actually do and compare it with what they say they do," says Anderson. "Our ultimate goal is to improve hand hygiene in veterinary clinics. If compliance is good, we want to learn about the contributing factors so we can keep it that way. If compliance is poor, we'll work with them to improve the situation."

Washing your hands is the simplest, most effective thing you can do to prevent the transmission of disease between animals, from animals to people and people to animals, and from people to people, she says.

"It's not rocket science, but it's very important. That's why we want to look at it."

Anderson also co-ordinates the Worms and Germs Blog with her supervisor, Prof. Scott Weese, Department of Pathobiology.



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held at the end of the semester for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by Feb. 26 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@exec.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039. The following people correctly reported that the Feb. 10 photo was of a banner in the Thornbrough Building: Lillian Wilson, Marinette Fargo, Norma Harrington, Bill Clair, Danny Martin and John Van Manen.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

Prof Supports Eye Hospital, Junior High School in India

Continued from page 1

but 715 had cataract operations. The goal is to do more than 1,000 operations a year, he says.

"And it's entirely free for the patients," he adds.

Dwivedi notes that many people arrive at the hospital in rickshaws or oxcarts and live in rural areas where they're unlikely to find good nursing

care. For that reason, the hospital has patients stay for at least two nights after surgery.

"The hospital does between 12 and 15 operations each day, except in the middle of summer when it's too hot. Among patients, we give preference to girls and women because it's harder for them to get treatment otherwise."

Dwivedi is also passionate about the importance of education and helped establish a junior high school in India in an area where few children are able to continue their schooling past the earliest grades. It has more than 270 students and was named after John Meisel, who taught Dwivedi at Queen's University.

"My wife and I don't take vaca-

tions," he says. "The money we'd spend on a trip will go so much further if we send it to help with these projects. If each of us does a little bit, the world will become a peaceful and tranquil place for everyone."

During his long distinguished career, Dwivedi has received many honours. He is a Member of the Order of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and has been awarded a number of honorary degrees. But he has never forgotten his humble beginnings in India.

"I came from a poor family. When I arrived in Canada, I had \$10 in my pocket. And when I die, I will take nothing with me. So why not help those who are destitute and need to be empowered?"

For information about paid advertising in *At Guelph*, contact Scott Anderson at 519-827-9169 or theandersondifference@rogers.com.

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EVENTS

ARBORETUM

Horticulturist Sean Fox leads a workshop on "The Art and Practice of Pruning" March 16 or 17 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$55. Registration and payment are required by March 2. Call Ext. 52358.

Gardener Lenore Ross offers a workshop on growing perennials from seed March 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. Registration and payment are due March 11.

"An Ecological Vegetable Garden" is the focus of Denise Jupp March 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. The deadline for registration and payment is March 12.

CONCERTS

The Thursday at Noon concert series continues Feb. 25 with soprano Sarah Kramer and pianist Anna Ronai, March 4 with the Red Chamber Ensemble and March 11 with classical guitarist Cary Savage. Concerts begin at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

LECTURES

The ASTRA lecture series presents Prof. Fred Eidlin, Political Science, discussing "The Method of Problems Versus the Method of Topics" Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 317.

The School of English and Theatre Studies and the TransCanada Institute host Duke University critical and political theorist Michael Hardt exploring "The Politics of the Common" March 1 at 4:30 p.m. in Rozanski 102. A reception will follow at the institute. Hardt will also give a seminar for graduate students on "Foucault and Kant on Enlightenment" March 2 at noon at the institute. Register for the seminar at transcan@uoguelph.ca.

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development hosts a talk by Chris Glaisek, vice-president for planning and design at WATERFRONToronto, March 12 at noon in Landscape Architecture 125. The topic is "Building Our New Blue Edge: The Revitalization of Toronto's Waterfront."

British art curator Iwona Blazwick will deliver the School of Fine Art and Music's fourth annual Shenkman Lecture in Contemporary Art March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. She will discuss "Just What Is It That Makes Today's Institutions So Different, So Appealing?"

FILM

The Spanish studies program in the School of Languages and Literatures presents *Crimen Perfecto* Feb. 28 and *Matador* March 2 at 7 p.m. in MacKinnon 228. The films are in Spanish with English subtitles.

"Ducurama," a free film series sponsored by the U of G Library and the Central Student Association, presents *Fierce Light* Feb. 25, *The Yes Men Fix the World* March 4 and *Capitalism: A Love Story* March 11 at 7 p.m. in Thornbrough 1200.

NOTICES

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is calling for nominations for its Excellence in Education Award by May 31. For information, visit the website www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/su/su_002.cfm.

Equine Guelph is hosting the second offering of its "Horses101" seminar series this spring, providing practical information on horse care. Starting March 24, the sessions run for four Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Erin Community Centre. For more information, visit www.equineguelph.ca/news/index.php?content=244.

The Spanish Conversation Club in the School of Languages and Literatures meets twice weekly from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Wednesdays in MacKinnon 228 and Fridays in MacKinnon 233.

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic is offering a four-session program on managing headaches starting Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in UC 335. The clinic is also running a STOP Worrying! workshop March 1 at 7 p.m. in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~cal-somers or leave a message at Ext. 52662.

The College of Management and Economics Students' Association hosts the third annual CMA etiquette dinner March 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cutten Club. For details, visit www.cmesa.ca/index.php/third-annual-cma-etiquette-dinner.

MFA students and undergraduate students in the specialized studio program in the School of Fine Art and Music host their annual open studios March 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. in Blackwood Hall, the Fire Hall and the Axelrod Building. For more details, visit www.uoguelph.ca/sofam/5i_openstudio.

SEMINARS

Prof. Cate Dewey, Population Medicine, is guest speaker in the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare's animal behaviour and welfare seminar series Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 141. Her topic is "Kenya: Pigs and Children Competing for Food."

The Improvisation, Community and Social Practice project hosts Prof. Ric Knowles, English and Theatre Studies, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. in MacKinnon 132. He will discuss "Deep Improvisation and Drama-

turgy Across Difference: *Chocolate Woman Dreams the Milky Way*."

"Controlling the Structure, Composition and Properties of Transparent Semiconductor Nanostructures: Toward a Rational Design of Nanoscale Multifunctionality" is the focus of Pavle Radovanovic of the University of Waterloo in the Department of Chemistry seminar series Feb. 25 at 10:45 a.m. in science complex 1511.

Next up in the Department of Pathobiology seminar series Feb. 26 is David Suarez of the USDA's Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory explaining "Vaccination for Avian Influenza Virus: Issues Preventing Effective Control." On March 12, the topic is "Bacterial Pathogenomics: More Than Just A, C, T and Gs" with Brian Coombes of the Michael DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research at McMaster University. The talks begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

The Department of Economics seminar series presents Prof. Alan Ker, Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, describing "Non-Parametric Estimation of Possibly Similar Densities With Applications" Feb. 26 in MacKinnon 306. The series continues March 1 with Price Fishback of the University of Arizona discussing "In Search of the Multiplier for Net Federal Spending in the States During the New Deal: A Preliminary Report" in MacKinnon 318 and March 5 with Jeffrey Nugent of the University of Southern California on "Lobbying or Information Provision: Which Functions of Associations Matter Most for Member Performance?" in MacKinnon 306. On March 12, the topic is "Research With Maple: Methods and Models" with Mahmud Parlar of McMaster University in MacKinnon 306. All seminars begin at 3:30 p.m.

"Integration of Transcriptomic and Metabolomic Approaches for Understanding Plant Responses to Nitrogen Limitation" is the focus of post-doc researcher David Guevara in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology's plant biology seminar series March 1. On March 8, post-doc Wendy Allen explains "Regulation of Starch Biosynthetic Enzymes in *Arabidopsis*." The seminars begin at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

Next up in the Department of Integrative Biology seminar series March 2 is Neo Martinez of the Pacific Ecoinformatics and Computational Ecology Lab discussing "Resistance and Robustness to Species Loss and Invasion in Complex Ecological Networks." On March 9, Helene Cyr of the University of Toronto considers "Physical Forcing and Near-Shore Food Webs in Lakes." The seminars are at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

The Department of Physics presents Cynthia Goh of the University of Toronto discussing "From Basic Science to Technology: Why and How Academic Scientists Should Engage in Commercialization" March 2 at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 101.

The Department of Plant Agriculture seminar series continues March 3 with post-doc Wendy Pearson examining "Plant Nutraceuticals — Mediators of Inflammation" and March 10 with Prof. Barry Micallef on "Coping in Time and Space: Biological Rhythms and Their Significance in Plants." The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307.

McMaster University PhD candidate Jonathan Little is guest speaker in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences seminar series March 8 at 3:30 p.m. in Food Science 241. His topic is "Skeletal Muscle Metabolic Adaptations to Low-Volume, High-Intensity Interval Training: Potential Mechanisms Involving PGC-1 Alpha."

Café Scientifique, a series of science and technology discussions hosted by the School of Environmental Sciences (SES), continues March 9 with SES professor Rob Nicol considering "Food, Fuel and Chemicals: There's Plenty to Go Around" at 7 p.m. at Diana Downtown.

Café Philosophique, hosted by the College of Arts in collaboration with the Bookshelf, presents Prof. Susan Nance, History, March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf Café. Her topic is "Can Rodeo Sports Survive the 21st Century?"

The Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology seminar series hosts Brian Sykes of the University of Alberta discussing "How the Dynamics of Intrinsically Unfolded Regions of Sarcomere Proteins Regulate Muscle Contraction" March 10 at 12:30 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 156.

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for the following Teaching Support Services events are at www.tss.uoguelph.ca.

TSS will provide a live link via satellite to the TEDx satellite event "Tomorrow Started Yesterday" Feb. 25 from 2 to 8 p.m. in Rozanski 106. It will feature a diverse lineup of thinkers from the business, art, technology, education, social justice and design communities. Seating is limited, and registration is required.

TSS hosts a workshop on "Creating and Using Rubrics to Grade Written Work" March 2.

TSS's graduate student workshops continue with "Developing a Teaching Dossier" March 4 and 5 and "Planning an Exam Review Session and Exam Invigilation" March 11.

Upcoming TSS "Learning Circle" discussion groups include "Teaching on the Edge" Feb. 26 and March 9, "Engaging in Education Research" March 3 and "Community Engaged Teaching and Learning" March 4.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of Brooke McIntosh, an MA candidate in the Department of Philosophy, is Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. in MacKinnon 346. The thesis is "Welcoming the Other: Encouragement in Education." The adviser is Prof. Karen Houle.

The final examination of PhD candidate Mark Burrell, Molecular and Cellular Biology, is March 8 at 9 a.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "Regulation of Starch Biosynthetic Enzymes in Wheat." The adviser is Prof. Mike Emes.

The final examination of Meghan Fuzzen, an M.Sc. candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology, is March 8 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Regulation of the Endocrine Stress Response and the Modulating Effects of Sex Steroids in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)." The advisers are Profs. Nicholas Bernier and Glen Van Der Kraak.

The final examination of PhD candidate Mark Sherrard, Integrative Biology, is March 12 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Physiological Adaptation to Biotic and Abiotic Soil Factors in *Bromus inermis*." The adviser is Prof. Hafiz Maherali.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis holds its annual dinner and auction March 27 at 5 p.m. at Guelph Place. For tickets, call 519-836-1110 or visit www.gwwomenincrisis.org.

Centre Wellington District High School in Fergus is hosting a concert featuring country recording artist Shane Yellowbird Feb. 24 at 7:10 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. All proceeds will support the school's aboriginal exchange program.

Wellington County Museum and Archives presents the exhibition "Arresting Images: Mug Shots From the OPP Museum" Feb. 27 to April 5.

Po'Girl will perform March 9 at Dublin Street United Church as part of its "No Shame Tour," which is raising money to fight child abuse. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

The Guelph Civic Museum celebrates March Break with family activities and exhibits featuring the "Arts of China," a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum. The program runs March 13, 14, 20 and 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. and March 15 to 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

INSIDE: CHAIR 'A PERFECT FIT' • MITES MAIN CULPRIT IN BEE DEATHS • GOING WITH THE GRAIN



This year's College Royal celebrant, second-year OAC student Sarah Brien, is all set to welcome the more than 30,000 visitors expected to turn out for College Royal open house weekend March 20 and 21.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

86th Annual College Royal Open House Ready to Roll

U of G hosts largest student-run university open house of its kind in North America

BY TERESA PITMAN

"DREAM BIG, Dream Royal." That's the theme of the University of Guelph's 86th annual College Royal. And a big event it is.

"We are the largest student-run university open house in North America," says fourth-year OAC student Katie Bloetjes, head of public relations for College Royal. "We have an executive of 90 students plus about 3,000 volunteers."

Second-year DVM student Amy Thomson, president of College Royal, adds that the event is, in fact, bigger than most people realize. "We actually run for 12 days," she says.

Events kick off March 10 with the College Royal Pub, followed by a fashion show March 12, the College Royal Ball March 13 and Super Thursday March 18. That all leads up to the open house weekend March 20 and 21, which is expected to draw more than 30,000 visitors.

"For those two days, we take over the whole campus to showcase everything that's going on," says Thomson. "College Royal may have started out as an aggie event, but it has gone way beyond that now. We have displays and activities from ev-

ery department."

She says organizers try to build on the event's history and traditions by adding or expanding each year, and 2010 is no exception. One of her goals this year was to make the campus more visitor-friendly.

"We don't want people to miss any of the really great things that are going on, so we're putting up big street signs to help orient everyone."

Those signs will lead visitors to a host of displays and events that will appeal to all ages, says Thomson.

For children, there are lots of activities such as the Chemistry Magic Show, a tractor rodeo, teddy bear surgery and Old MacDonald's New Farm, she says.

"There's also plenty to interest students, including the livestock show, club displays and the pancake flip contest, which is running both Saturday and Sunday this year. And for adults, there are lectures that offer a chance to learn something new in an interesting way."

Other perennial favourites include the cat and dog shows, square dancing, logging competitions and the flower-arranging contest.

"I think everyone will find something to enjoy and something that

will make them proud to be connected to U of G," says Thomson.

One person you can expect to see popping up all over campus throughout the weekend is College Royal celebrant Sarah Brien, a second-year OAC student who will be called on to open various events.

"I'm really privileged to be this year's celebrant," says Brien. "So much work goes into College Royal behind the scenes, and so many people give up hours and hours of their time to make it happen. I'm planning to make it out to all the events."

She's especially looking forward to the ball. "I love seeing the University Centre decked out with all the decorations, and I think I'll appreciate it even more than I did last year because now I know how much work went into it."

A complete schedule of open house events will be available on campus and online at collegeroyal.uoguelph.ca.

In conjunction with College Royal weekend, Curtain Call Productions will present the musical satire *Reefer Madness* March 17 to 20 in War Memorial Hall, and fine art students will host their annual art show and sale in Zavitz Hall.

Wallin Appointed to Second Term

U of G chancellor's tenure extended to March 2013

CANADIAN SENATOR Pamela Wallin has been appointed to a second term as U of G chancellor. Her reappointment was approved by Guelph's Senate last week, extending her tenure to March 2013.

"I am so proud of my association with the University of Guelph and thrilled to continue as chancellor at a university that is not only loved by its students, faculty, staff and alumni but is also respected internationally and here at home for its work in changing lives and improving life," says Wallin.

One of Canada's most prominent media figures, diplomats and entrepreneurs, she first became chancellor in March 2007. She has also been a member of Canada's Senate since 2008, serving on its prestigious Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee, as deputy chair of the Defence and National Security Committee and as a

member of the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs. In addition, she was appointed honorary colonel of the Air Force in 2009.

"Pamela's achievements are remarkable, earning her great respect and benefiting the University," says president Alastair Summerlee. "But her nomination for reappointment focused not on her personal prestige but rather on her warmth, candour and unwavering conviction to use her positions to do what she believes is right."

During her first term as chancellor, Wallin conferred degrees on thousands of U of G graduates. She also serves on the University's external relations committee, Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, and has been an active public supporter of the University. As a senator, she promotes the importance of higher education and the arts, humanities and social sciences.

U of G to Honour Co-op Excellence

Awards to be presented March 25 at Cutten Club

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION and Career Services has announced the winners of U of G's 2009 Co-op Awards. Fourth-year marketing management student Amy Faria is Co-op Student of the Year in commerce and social and applied human sciences. Third-year biological engineering student Randi Phinney is Co-op Student of the Year in science and engineering.

These awards recognize a range of student achievements, including job and academic performance and contributions to employer, co-operative education and the community at large.

Faria was cited as a model co-op student who has excelled both academically and on the job and still managed to do volunteer work. She was nominated by her co-op supervisor, Prof. Anne Wilcock, Marketing and Consumer Studies.

Phinney was lauded for being an exceptional ambassador for U of G on the international stage, having completed three work terms abroad. She was nominated by her project manager at Tetra Pak Processing in

Sweden.

The 2009 Co-op Employer of the Year is RealNet Canada Inc. This award recognizes co-op employers for their role in supporting Guelph's co-operative education programs and creating successful experiential learning opportunities for students.

RealNet Canada Inc. was nominated by co-op student Samantha Barnard, who praised the organization for its longtime commitment to the co-op program and for its training program for new hires. To date, RealNet has employed students in more than 20 work terms.

The Collin Cureatz Memorial Award for Co-op Student Involvement, which recognizes contributions to the betterment of Guelph's co-op program or to co-op student life, will be presented to fourth-year environmental sciences student Mihiri De Silva.

All award winners and nominees will be recognized at an awards reception March 25 at the Cutten Club. The event is part of National Co-operative Education Week, which runs March 22 to 26.

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UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
CHANGING LIVES IMPROVING LIVES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Governance Committee of the University of Guelph's Board of Governors is calling for suggestions of individuals external to the University who might be considered for appointment to the Board. The committee is particularly interested in recruiting external members from equity groups, including Aboriginal Canadians, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and women.

Recommendations are welcome at any time and will be kept on file for three years from the date of submission. They can be forwarded in confidence to:

Board of Governors Membership and Governance Committee
c/o University Secretariat, Level 4, University Centre
University of Guelph, Guelph ON, N1G 2W1

They can also be submitted by email to univsec@uoguelph.ca

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senate

Organic Agriculture Major to Continue

U OF G WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER a major in organic agriculture, Senate decided at its Feb. 22 meeting. Last spring while considering a decision made by its Board of Undergraduate Studies to cancel low-enrolment majors and programs, Senate voted to give the organic agriculture specialization a one-year reprieve.

The Ontario Agricultural College was directed to look at ways to attract additional students to the major and seek new commitments for industry funding and teaching support.

In a memo to Senate, OAC dean Rob Gordon said enrolment in the major has increased since last June from four to 20 students, with additional recruitment possible before the start of the next school year. He also said OAC has developed a plan for maintaining required components of the major until at least 2014 in consultation with the chair of the Department of Plant Agriculture and the director of the School of Environmental Sciences.

In other business, Senate approved a policy that addresses the principles and processes to be followed in the naming or renaming of University academic entities and awards. This includes academic units, programs, endowed or externally sponsored chairs, fellowships and professorships.

It also approved a change in degree designation for the master's program in the Department of Biomedical Sciences to distinguish between the two option streams for the degree. The thesis-based program will continue to be called a master of science in biomedical sciences, but the course-based program with associated research project is now designated a master of biomedical sciences.

Senate reviewed the status of the implementation of recommendations from the Academic Integrity Report. The provost had requested that the Judicial Office conduct a five-year review of the report. The annual report from the Committee on Student Petitions was also presented.

Senate approved the bylaws and membership for a new standing committee on quality assurance for fall 2010.

It will focus on institutional quality assurance processes and report annually to Senate on the key outcomes of the internal reviews, highlighting trends, issues and recommendations.

President Alastair Summerlee also updated Senate on U of G's budget situation, including the state of its pension and endowments. Guelph will present a preliminary 2010/2011 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities operating budget to Board of Governors at its April meeting.

The budget information will be presented to Senate at its next meeting March 29, and comments from the Senate discussion will also be presented to B of G.

NSERC/RIM Chair 'a Perfect Fit'

Chair's outreach programs get the word out to thousands of girls and women

A U OF G-BASED research chair dedicated to increasing the participation of women in science and engineering university programs has engaged with some 8,000 women and girls since its inception in 2008.

The chair — supported by the University of Guelph, Research in Motion (RIM) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) — was established to address the under-representation of women in science and technology. According to Engineers Canada, less than 20 per cent of undergraduate engineering students in Canada are women.

The NSERC/RIM Chair for Women in Science and Engineering's efforts have included outreach programs in public schools, Girl Guide summer camps, programs to help female scientists and engineers secure research positions, and workshops on career transitions for women.

"It's been a phenomenal way to get the word out to thousands of girls and women about career opportunities in science, engineering and technology," says engineering professor Valerie Davidson, who holds the NSERC/RIM chair.

Highlights of activities that took place in the past year include:

- More than 700 young women, 500 parents and 400 volunteers participated in Go ENG Girl, a province-wide event for girls in grades 7 to 10 and their parents to learn about programs and careers in engineering.

A total of 136 elementary and high school classes in 40 Ontario schools participated in Ready SET Go! workshops, which included presentations and design activities related to science, engineering and technology careers.

- Some 650 elementary and high school students — nearly 60 per cent of them female — took part in research activities offered by the Science and Technology Consortium, a collaboration involving Lakehead University, Ryerson University, Actua and the NSERC/RIM chair.

Davidson and her research team plan to expand the national network established through the chair with additional researchers and advocacy organizations, and to expand opportunities for young women to connect with mentors and role models.

"Our goal is to increase awareness among young women about the possibilities offered by a science education and among parents and educators about perceptions and systemic barriers that need to change," she says.

President Alastair Summerlee notes that the partnership "is a perfect fit for all involved. NSERC and

RIM are committed to reaching out to students to increase their interest in these vital fields, and the University of Guelph has developed a reputation for innovation in engineering and science and for making a difference by tackling difficult issues."

Robert Crow, RIM vice-president of industry, government and university relations, adds: "As a company built on talented people with great ideas, RIM recognizes the importance of encouraging the next generation to pursue science and engineering studies. That's why we are pleased to support the NSERC/RIM Chair for Women in Science and Engineering and applaud the wonderful work they are doing to help women and girls discover the amazing opportunities in science and engineering."

NSERC president Suzanne Fortier says the chair is "a wonderful program that has encouraged many young women to pursue the exciting opportunities that the natural sciences and engineering disciplines provide. The response from female students in high schools and universities has been fantastic, and we look forward to building on this momentum."

First established by NSERC in 2003, the Chair for Women in Science and Engineering at U of G was renewed in 2008 for three years with RIM as the industry partner.

at GUELPH

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CAMPUS DAY MARCH 28

U of G expects to welcome up to 3,500 prospective undergraduate students and their family members to Campus Day March 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The day's activities will include information sessions, displays and campus tours. Hundreds of U of G faculty, staff and student volunteers will be on hand to talk about all facets of university life.

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS HOST THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Philosophy Graduate Students' Association hosts its third annual conference March 13 in Macdonald Stewart Hall. This year's theme is "Bodies in the World." The conference begins at 9:30 a.m. and will feature panel sessions until 4:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., keynote speaker Hasana Sharp of McGill University will discuss "Men Have Nothing Less in Their Power Than Their Tongues: On Spoken Passions" at PJ's in the Atrium. A reception will follow. For more information, visit www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy.

NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS FOR WINEGARD AWARDS

March 12 is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2010 Dr. William Winegard Exemplary Volunteer Involvement Awards sponsored by U of G, the United Way of Guelph and Wellington and the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington. The awards recognize members of the University community who have devoted volunteer time and effort in Guelph and Wellington County. Nomination packages are available at www.volunteerguelphwellington.on.ca under "What's New."

CURTAIN UPI

Curtain Call Productions presents the musical satire *Reefer Madness* March 17 to 20 in War Memorial Hall. Performances run nightly at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 for students, and are available at the Info Desk on Level 1 of the University Centre or online at www.ticketscene.ca.

JURIED ART SHOW SET

The Fine Art Network's annual juried art show, the largest student-run art show of its kind in Ontario, runs March 19 to 21 in Zavitz Hall. Printmaking students also hold their annual show and sale of original lithographs, etchings, relief prints and screen prints over the weekend. The sale runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday in Room 207 of Zavitz Hall.

The last issue of At Guelph will be published April 7. We invite you to read campus news and features online through the U of G home page starting April 12.

Ontario Invests \$7.2 Million in Plant Agriculture Research

Funding to support new bean varieties, new products from non-food crops

BY LORI BONA HUNT

TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS that will enhance U of G's reputation for revolutionizing agriculture and facilitating the transition to a bioeconomy received more than \$7.2 million in provincial support last month.

The funding was part of a \$69.5-million investment unveiled by John Milloy, minister of research and innovation, for 21 projects across Ontario.

The Guelph funding will support the creation of new bean varieties and the engineering of new products from non-food crops for use in the packaging, manufacturing and automotive sectors.

"This shows the faith the provincial government has in our ability to play a leadership role in enhancing Canada's ever-important agri-food industry, especially as we move towards a more sustainable future," says president Alastair Summerlee.

He adds that U of G is renowned in the agricultural and life sciences and for creating a culture of innovation in these fields.

"This funding will allow us to further explore new research areas such as the engineering of new bioproducts and crop varieties that have enhanced disease resistance and healthful qualities."

Both projects are based in the Department of Plant Agriculture. Prof. Peter Pauls will lead a \$3.7-million initiative to produce a draft genomic sequence of dry beans and develop

genetic markers for improved varieties. Nine researchers are involved in the project.

Currently, there is a lack of genomic information for the dry bean, unusual for such an important crop, says Pauls. In Ontario alone, it generates more than \$100 million a year.

The research will provide information about genes involved in resistance to a problematic bacterial pathogen, as well as genes that would allow for nutraceutical production, increased antioxidant content and seed storage proteins.

Researchers will also develop molecular markers to select new bean varieties that incorporate enhanced disease resistance, higher levels of beneficial antioxidants and novel protein profiles for biofilm and biofibre production.

"This represents an important opportunity for an Ontario genomics effort to have major international impact and will put Canadian bean researchers at the forefront," says Pauls.

Prof. Amar Mohanty will head a seven-member team of researchers from four Ontario universities making new industrial bioproducts from bioresources. With their \$3.5-million grant, the researchers hope to improve the use of co-products (lignin, hemicelluloses and crude glycerol) that are created during the production of second-generation biofuels (ones made from non-food crops).

Food-versus-fuel concerns are

prompting greater focus on second-generation biofuels, but co-products are currently undervalued and underused, says Mohanty, director of U of G's Bioproducts and Development Centre and holder of the Ontario Premier's Research Chair in Biomaterials and Transportation.

Mohanty's team will develop new "green" technology to use co-products, as well as switchgrass and miscanthus, to create new bioplastics, biobased blends, composites and nanocomposites for use in various sectors.

"The project has been formulated based on current needs of industries and involves a new approach to manufacturing," he says. "It also offers strategic value for the province. It could transform Ontario into a biorefinery hub and open up new markets for Ontario's agricultural, biofuel, pulp and paper industries."

Mohanty adds that the research activities aim to produce substitutes for existing petroleum-based counterparts.

"This means a strong potential for a tremendous reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through new industrial biomaterial uses."

Guelph's funding was announced by Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph.

"We're proud of the work that our researchers do and the wealth and jobs they create in Guelph," she said. "New discoveries will continue to be made, and we want those people, those ideas and those jobs right here in our community."

Hammond Lectures to Focus on the Human Dimensions

Waterloo prof to give keynote talk on sustainability development in industry

"HUMAN DIMENSIONS of the Environment" is the theme of this year's Kenneth Hammond Lectures on Environment, Energy and Resources to be held March 26 and 27. The annual event is sponsored by U of G and the School of Environmental Sciences (SES).

Blair Feltmate, an environment professor and director of sustainability practice at the University of Waterloo, will give the keynote address March 26 at 7 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. His free talk will focus on "Bringing Industry Sectors on Board to Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Canadian Electricity Association."

Among his work with dozens of multinational corporations over the years, Feltmate was sustainable development director at Ontario Power Generation and launched Canada's first sustainable development-based pension funds at the Bank of Montreal.

"Sustainability is a difficult thing to define and even more difficult to implement, but he managed to get it on the agenda at Ontario Power Generation," says Prof. Madhur Anand, chair of the SES outreach committee.

A free symposium and panel discussion will be held March 27 in City Hall council chambers. Guelph Mayor Karen Farbridge will discuss "Community Energy Planning: The Guelph Experience."

Other speakers are:

- Guelph graduate David Noble, head of 2degreesC ("Digging Deep in Climate Communications: From Science and Solutions to the Heart of the Matter");
- Prof. Rumina Dhall, Business ("Being Green: More Than an Image");
- Prof. Elizabeth Kurucz, Business ("The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Create Value"); and
- José Etchevery of York University

("New North American Strategies to Address Climate Change").

Space at the symposium is limited, and registration is required at hls@uoguelph.ca.

The Hammond lecture series began in 2000 and is named after the late Kenneth Hammond, a former member of U of G's Board of Governors and an advocate of environmental and resource issues and environmental education.

In related news, SES has teamed up with the Bookshelf downtown to offer a new series called "Environment Bound." It consists of readings and discussion of books about the environment written by authors on campus or off.

Award-winning Saskatchewan author and naturalist Trevor Herriot will kick off the series March 15 by discussing his 2009 book, *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds*. The free event begins at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf eBar.

people

WRESTLER WINS CIS GOLD, NAMED ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

First-year Gryphon wrestler Jacob Jagas of Kitchener captured a Canadian Interuniversity (CIS) Sport gold medal at the 2010 national wrestling championships in Calgary on the weekend and was named CIS Rookie of the Year after winning in the 72-kilogram division. Fifth-year student Kyle Grant of Whitby won a silver medal in the 130-kg event and was named the recipient of the R.W. Pugh Fair Play Award. Second-year student Kevin Iwasa-Madge of Milton captured a bronze medal in the 65-kg division.

U OF G STAFF SPEAK AT REGISTRARS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

Chuck Cunningham, director of Communications and Public Affairs, gave a presentation on "Branding Higher Education From Guelph to Botswana" at the 2010 conference of the Ontario University Registrars' Association last week in Toronto. Pauline Sinclair, associate registrar, Graduate Program Services, spoke on "Funding Needs and Planning for the Graduate Student." Sinclair and Wayne Johnston, head of research enterprise and scholarly communication in the U of G Library, presented "What's Going On With Electronic Theses and Dissertations in Canada and How the University of Guelph Is Getting It Right." Graduate liaison officer Sophia Janssen discussed "Graduate Student Experience — From Application to Graduation."

President Calls for Nominations for Staff Awards

PRESIDENT Alastair Summerlee is calling for nominations for the 2010 President's Awards for Exemplary Staff Service. The deadline for nominations is May 31.

Summerlee created the awards program in 2004 to recognize University staff who have consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and have exceeded the expectations of their normal employment responsibilities.

There are seven award categories, six for individual nominations and one for a team nomination. The categories are: Innovative Leadership Recognition Award, Service Excellence Recognition Award, Hidden Hero Award, University of Guelph Spirit Award, Community Service Award, the Award of Excellence in Health and Safety, and the Exemplary Team Recognition Award.

All non-academic full- and part-time U of G staff who have been employed at Guelph for at least two years are eligible for the awards.

Terms of reference and nomination forms are available online at www.uoguelph.ca/president/exemplaryservice or from the president's office on Level 4 of the University Centre.

For more information, contact Claire Alexander at c.alexander@exec.uoguelph.ca or Ext. 53098.

Primary Health Care Future of Vet Profession: Director

Hill's Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre scheduled to open in June

BY BARRY GUNN

A LONGTIME CLINICIAN and academic with strong ties to the Ontario Veterinary College has been named head of the Hill's Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre. Shane Bateman joined the University as director of primary health care Jan. 25.

Construction of the centre is well underway on the western edge of the OVC complex, with the opening scheduled for June 8. The first group of DVM students will begin their primary health-care rotations July 26.

Sherri Cox, associate dean of administration and chief operating officer of the OVC Health Sciences Centre, says Bateman's "wealth of knowledge in veterinary medicine and veterinarian/client communications and his familiarity with our college will enable him to further develop the work that has been done thus far on the primary health-care initiative."

A graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Bateman spent two years in practice before coming to OVC in 1993 for an internship in small-animal medicine, followed by a resi-



Shane Bateman

dency and a D.V.Sc. in emergency and critical care. He returns to Guelph after more than a decade at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Bateman is passionate about the role of communication in the veterinarian/client relationship and the importance of teaching communication skills. He says the fact that OVC has been a pioneer in the field is a major motivation behind his decision to move back to Canada.

"This is the future of the profession," he says. "The primary health-care program will help us do a better job of preparing student veterinarians for the challenges they'll face as practitioners, employees and business partners in their communities."

The four-year DVM program is being retooled to provide more hands-on experience in all aspects of running a successful practice, from answering the phones to treating routine cases.

It will also include integrated programs in nutrition, behaviour, rehabilitation, animal welfare and public health.

"This is one of the most exciting things to happen in the profession in many years," says Bateman. "In many ways, this is a return to our roots."

The Hill's Pet Nutrition Primary Healthcare Centre is a key part of the overall redevelopment of OVC and the creation of the OVC Health Sciences Centre. It is supported by a \$5-million, 10-year commitment from Hill's Pet Nutrition that was announced in 2008. That same year, the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities invested \$9.5 million in the facility and OVC redevelopment.

Toronto Chair in Jewish Philosophy to Speak at U of G

Second annual Guelph Lecture in Philosophy March 18

AN EXPERT on Jewish philosophy and German idealism will give the second annual Guelph Lecture in Philosophy March 18.

Paul Franks, an Oxford and Harvard graduate who holds the Senator Jeremiah S. and Carole S. Grafstein Chair in Jewish Philosophy at the University of Toronto, will discuss "German Idealism, Anti-Semitism and the Significance of Jewish Philosophy in Multicultural Modernity" at 5:30 p.m. on the main floor of the U of G Library.

The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the Bullring.

"Paul Franks touches on deep and thorny questions about culture and ideology," says Prof. Andrew Bailey, chair of the Department of Philosophy. "Having him here is exciting for us in the department, but we know his presentation will also interest people throughout the University and beyond."

Prof. Mark McCullagh, one of the event organizers, says that although Franks is a relatively young philosopher, he is already a significant figure in contemporary re-

search into German idealism. His most recent book is *All or Nothing: Systematicity, Transcendental Arguments and Skepticism in German Idealism*.

McCullagh says that although the U of T scholar's interests range widely, he has chosen to discuss whether philosophy should be "culturally neutral."

"For us in multicultural Canada, this is a timely question," says McCullagh. "Given his expertise, he has chosen to examine this question in terms of the relationship between German idealism and Jewish philosophy. The relationship is interesting because there are those who see these two traditions as being in conflict, whereas others see them as informing and shaping each other. It's an interesting case study in the interplay between culturally derived ideas and those that profess a more neutral origin."

Franks will also give a separate talk geared to philosophy faculty and students March 17 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 384 of the U of G Library. Others interested in attending are welcome, says Bailey.

Varroa Mites Primary Cause of Honeybee Deaths

Study finds mites were responsible for more than 85 per cent of honeybee colony mortality in Ontario

BY ANDREW VOWLES

VARROA MITES are the main culprit behind the mysterious die-offs of honeybee colonies that have alarmed beekeepers, crop growers and the general public over the past three years, according to a new study by Prof. Ernesto Guzman, Environmental Sciences.

The study, which was published last month in the journal *Apidologie* and has made headlines across Canada, found that the parasitic mites were responsible for more than 85 per cent of honeybee colony mortality in Ontario. The next most important killers were too-sparse beehive populations in fall and insufficient food reserves for winter, says Guzman.

About one-third of Ontario's colonies died in the winter of 2006/07, and another one-third died in 2007/08 — about three times the expected winter loss in average years. Some beekeepers in parts of the province lost all their hives.

The Guelph biologist says his study offers solutions for beekeepers and crop growers, many reliant on honeybees for honey production and for pollination of food crops.

He studied 408 commercial colonies in six southern Ontario counties, including Wellington. In fall 2007, spring 2008 and early summer 2008, he counted bees in colonies and weighed colonies to gauge food

reserves. He also tested bees for varroa mites, tracheal mites and the *Nosema* fungus, all known to cause infection in bees.

Besides varroa mite infestation, weak populations and low food reserves in the fall can cause colony mortality, says Guzman.

"We're pretty sure we've solved a great deal of the mystery."

Based on his study, he recommends that beekeepers strictly follow

a mite treatment regimen, feed their bees enough sugar syrup and avoid splitting colonies too late in the season.

Tim Greer, president of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, says the Guelph study will help the province's roughly 2,200 beekeepers improve their management practices. He adds that the industry still needs reliable treatments for varroa mites.

"We've identified the problem —

now it's coming up with treatment."

Greer says experts are also concerned about the effects of systemic pesticides on bees in other parts of the world, although they appear not to be a major problem in Ontario.

In his Guelph lab, Guzman is studying genetic techniques to learn more about honeybee infections and to help breeders develop better bees.

The findings of his varroa mite study were highlighted last week by

Yahoo News, Canadian Press, CTV, Macleans.ca and a number of newspapers, radio stations and other online publications across the country.

This research was funded by the Ontario Beekeepers' Association; the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council; and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture.

Students to Spend Five Days Homeless

U of G among 21 universities across Canada taking part in annual fundraiser

BY REBECCA KENDALL

WITHOUT ACCESS to shelter, money or showers, five Guelph business students will spend March 14 to 19 on campus experiencing what it's like to be homeless.

It's all part of "5 Days for the Homeless," an annual Canada-wide initiative that aims to raise money and boost awareness of homelessness. Proceeds from the Guelph fundraiser will go to Wyndham House, a local organization that provides co-operative housing for youth.

The U of G participants this year

aim to raise \$7,500.

During the five days, they will sleep outdoors, and their only nourishment will come from those who donate meals to them. They must remain on campus the entire week, attend all their classes and maintain employment and extracurricular activities.

"Homelessness can affect any of us," says Suba Naganathan, a fifth-year marketing management student who's participating in this year's event. "Economic downturns, unfortunate circumstances and systemic social problems can all lead to poverty. Poverty and homelessness can be invisible to onlookers. These

individuals can be the young woman in your marketing class or the young man having a coffee beside you at the café. I think it's important for us to tackle this initiative because it has the potential to touch all of us."

Homelessness is a reality for an estimated 33,000 Canadians, and about one-third of them are young people.

"I'm looking forward to the conversations I'll have with people throughout this week," says Naganathan.

"I want to understand what people's perspectives are on this issue and to facilitate some education. I'm also looking forward to building

great relationships with the other participants. We'll be sharing something that we'll remember for a lifetime."

U of G is among 21 universities across Canada taking part in the fundraiser. The students will be homeless from March 14 at 5 p.m. until March 19 at 5 p.m. The Guelph campaign features an official launch on Branson Plaza March 15 at 9 a.m.

Members of the U of G group will be sharing their experiences through a blog that links to the campaign site. Pledges can be made online at www.guelph.5days.ca or in person at the students' home base on Branson Plaza.

Meeting the Needs of a Thirsty World

Newly arrived engineering professor studies membrane technology used in treating waste water for reuse

BY TERESA PITMAN

PURE, CLEAN WATER. Many people take it for granted, but newly arrived engineering professor Sheng Chang knows it's not always easy to achieve. As the world population grows and water consumption rises accordingly, it's becoming increasingly important to find new ways to treat waste water and make it usable again, he says.

"My research focus is on using membranes in combination with other techniques to treat water and waste water," says Chang, who joined U of G in January.

It's research with direct practical applications, and his career has included both academic and industrial positions.

Born in China, he did his undergraduate work in chemical engineering at Chengdu University of Science and Technology. After graduation, he worked at the Fourth Chemical Engineering Corporation for four years before becoming a lecturer in food engineering at Hunan Light Industrial College.

A position as a visiting researcher at the University of New South Wales in Australia eventually led him to enrol in the graduate program there. He completed his PhD in 2001 and did a post-doctoral stint at New South Wales before moving to Canada to work for Zenon Environmental in Oakville.

"I was excited about coming to Zenon because it was a world leader in membrane bioreactor technology for waste-water treatment," says Chang.

He worked in the technology department, reporting to the chief technical officer with a focus on new technology evaluation and develop-



Prof. Sheng Chang holds a membrane that is used to filter waste water and is the focus of his research in the School of Engineering.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

ment for future commercialization. In 2006, however, Zenon was acquired by General Electric, and his role changed. "Once GE took over the company, my work was more focused on the current membrane bioreactor technology and trying to make it more efficient."

The membrane bioreactor, an advanced technology for waste-water treatment, makes the treatment more efficient, plants more compact and the treated water cleaner. The major challenge, however, is that as water is filtered through the membrane, the particles, colloids and macromolecules being removed from the waste water get stuck to the

outside of the membrane — similar to how the filter in a furnace or vacuum cleaner eventually gets clogged, says Chang. In the membrane bioreactor, the organic matter produced by the biomass can form a gel-like layer on the outside of the membrane, blocking the pores so that water can no longer flow through.

"Our goal was to keep the membrane as clean as possible so it keeps on working," says Chang. "My research looked at the physical and chemical properties of the membrane, the biomass and the foulant materials to see if we could change anything to prevent the membranes

from being blocked."

Here at Guelph, Chang is interested in doing more work to understand the fundamentals of membrane and biological technology for waste-water treatment.

"In industry, they want the fast straight solution," he says. "In a university environment, you can look at the fundamental mechanisms of what's happening and maybe find new ways of enhancement."

Joining the faculty of U of G gives him an opportunity to explore these processes while maintaining his close ties to GE.

"I think it's a very good combination," he says. "You can bridge the

two, building on both the fundamentals and the commercial applications."

To understand his research, you need to know a bit about how membranes have been used in waste-water treatment. Currently, the membrane is made into a bundle of hollow tubes and placed in the middle of the concrete tank where water is being treated. Bacteria are put into the water to "eat" the organic compounds for their energy requirement and growth, and oxygen is injected for bacterial respiration. The membrane retains the bacteria inside the tank.

"This process is fairly fast, but that doesn't mean it's efficient based on the energy consumption," says Chang. "The bacteria grow rapidly, and it's costly to treat the biomass produced as a waste product in this process."

He's interested in looking at using anaerobic and other processes — ones that require no or much less oxygen to be injected into the water.

"The major drawback is that the biomass grows slowly without oxygen, but it consumes less energy and produces less waste."

Chang says membranes may help the anaerobic techniques for waste-water treatments. "If you want to push the technology forward and move to the next stage, you have to do this kind of fundamental research."

When he's not helping to make water cleaner, the engineer likes to play sports to keep in shape.

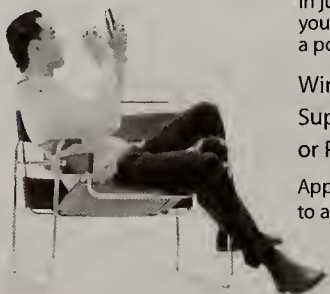
"I play basketball and badminton. I'm not very good, but I like the exercise. I also like to swim and walk, and I appreciate all the excellent parks and walking trails around Guelph and the University."



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Post-doctoral researcher Yuri Montanholi tries out an infrared camera used by OAC researchers to measure heat released by cattle and to improve feed efficiency. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Ready for My Thermal Close-up

Thermo-imaging seeks animals' hot spots for better performance

BY NATALIE OSBORNE
SPARK PROGRAM

AN INFRARED CAMERA such as the kind commonly used in military operations, energy audits and medical testing is giving Canadian cattle producers a unique way to look at their animals' feed efficiency.

Researchers say the novel use of infrared cameras on farms could improve the way producers identify their most feed-efficient cattle while making their herds more environmentally friendly.

Profs. Steve Miller, Kendall Swanson and Brian McBride of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science and post-doctoral researcher Yuri Montanholi are using infrared cameras to determine how much heat and methane beef and dairy cattle release from their bodies. That measurement will help reveal which animals use feed most efficiently, so farmers can capitalize on those animals in their breeding programs.

"Feed costs are rising, so whatever aspect of feed efficiency can be

improved will make an impact," says Montanholi. "If you can decrease feed intake but keep the same performance in your animals, you are producing less manure and fewer greenhouse gases. It all comes down to making production more sustainable. The infrared camera is a tool that could replace the costly and time-consuming traditional methods of measuring feed efficiency."

As cattle eat, energy and nutrients are used primarily to regulate body temperature, metabolism and organ functions. When the animals ingest more feed than they need for these demands, they emit the excess energy as heat. This can be detected and measured by directing an infrared camera at "hot spots" such as the feet and snout. Any excess energy detected represents a waste of feed and money.

Considerable energy is also lost through methane gas, a major greenhouse gas. So the researchers are using the infrared technology to assess methane production by taking thermographs on both right and left flanks. The rumen, the main site of methane production, is closer to the

left side of the abdomen. Thermographs from the left flank represent the rumen's temperature fluctuations; thermographs from the right flank mirror body temperature fluctuations.

All this may sound like some futuristic model, but Miller says the infrastructure is already in place.

"Technicians hired by producers typically go farm to farm with an ultrasound measuring the body composition of cattle when they're about a year old," he says. "Those same technicians could have infrared cameras and be measuring heat production, too."

Funding for this project is provided by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association; the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council; the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; the Canada Foundation for Innovation; and the Ontario Innovation Trust.

During the development of the research, Montanholi was sponsored by CAPES, the Brazilian government foundation for the co-ordination of higher education and graduate training.

Being Altruistic Could Boost Love Life, Study Finds

It turns out that nice guys might actually finish first

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

WHY ARE PEOPLE altruistic? One reason could be that it makes us more desirable to the opposite sex, according to a new study at U of G.

Prof. Pat Barclay, Psychology, has found that, all else being equal, both men and women are more attracted to people who are charitable.

"Altruistic behaviour is very costly because it takes time and money away from yourself to help someone else," says Barclay. "From either an evolutionary perspective or a learning perspective, behaviours that bring no obvious or immediate benefit should disappear, but altruism is still around. It's possible that generosity serves for mating purposes, either consciously or unconsciously."

Published recently in the *British Journal of Psychology*, the study set out to investigate whether altruistic behaviour helps our chances at lust or even love.

To determine whether altruism makes us more attractive to the opposite sex, the study asked participants to rate profiles of people by stating how willing they would be to have a long-term relationship, a date or a one-night stand with the person.

The profiles were patterned after dating ads, and half of them included descriptions that hinted at altruistic interests, such as "volunteers at a food bank" or "plays guitar at a children's hospital." The profiles were accompanied by photos of "average-looking people" to ensure participants weren't swayed by looks.

Results revealed that both men and women preferred those described as charitable when it came to long-term relationships. Women also preferred the nice guys as po-

tential dates or one-night stands.

"This goes against common wisdom that women go for bad guys simply because of their badness," says Barclay. "Instead, it suggests that altruism can definitely be used by men as an effective way to attract the opposite sex. For example, an average-looking altruist is more desirable than an average-looking regular guy. Similarly, a dashing and attractive guy can be even better if he's also an altruist."

Women, however, may not have the same success at grabbing men's attention with their giving nature.

The study found that although men preferred altruistic women for long-term relationships, they had no preference for or against nice women when it came to a single date and actually preferred women without altruistic interests when choosing the right person for a one-night stand.

Barclay says there are a few possible reasons that men would prefer women without altruistic interests for a one-night stand.

"The first reason could be that they believe a one-night stand would cause more harm to a nice girl," he says. "The other possible reason is that men believe they are less likely to be successful in achieving a one-night stand with a nice altruistic girl."

As to why altruism makes a person more desirable to both sexes for long-term relationships, Barclay suggests it could be because it implies other traits that are highly sought after when looking for someone to date or marry.

"It could be that altruism signals to potential mates an individual's ability and willingness to be a good partner and a good parent. It could possibly also signal abilities, resources and good character for those just looking for a date."

Staying Healthy Starts With Kids in Motion

New children's museum health programs tap into U of G expertise in health, nutrition, physical activity

BY ANDREW VOWLES

FOR THE PAST YEAR, some of U of G's youngest "students" have been getting their human health lessons at the Children's Museum in Kitchener. And this year, even more primary schoolers will learn about healthful living at the museum through new curriculum programs designed by Guelph graduates.

In January, the institution introduced a new Grade 5 health curriculum package developed by U of G master's graduates Stephanie Bolliger and Rachel Reby along with the museum's teacher-in-residence, Carole Zettel. Now the pair will create programs for grades 4 to 6 to be offered by the museum in the fall to students from area school boards.

Those new initiatives will extend U of G's

expertise in human health, nutrition and physical activity to thousands of area youngsters, says Guelph grad Laurel Nailer, who is the museum's visitor experience manager.

The museum will add the new programs to "Kids in Motion (KiM): A Healthy Start," a project begun in 2009 for K-3 students. That program was developed by U of G students working with Prof. Bill Bettiger, Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, and museum staff.

Last year, more than 2,000 area students took part in KiM activities at the museum, located in downtown Kitchener.

"It's a timely topic with teachers — staying healthy, starting young with kids to learn about their bodies and why a healthy lifestyle and physical activity are important," says Nailer.

Visiting classes use the curriculum materials at the museum, as well as pre- and post-visit

lesson plans in the classroom.

This winter, the museum added a Grade 5 program to coincide with the opening of the exhibit "Our Body: The Universe Within." That show runs until April.

In the fall, Bolliger and Reby worked with Zettel to develop the new Grade 5 program, including writing teacher packages and interpretive material for museum guides to lead classes through hands-on activities. The program follows the Ontario science curriculum, emphasizing human organ systems.

The grades 4 to 6 programs in the works for the fall are being designed for the provincial health and physical education curriculum.

"It's hoped that programs like these will give students skills and attitudes that will help them make reasoned, informed decisions when it comes to making choices that could

have long-term consequences for their health," says Bolliger.

Both she and Reby graduated last summer and are working as research associates at Nutrasource Diagnostics Inc., a nutritional research company located in the U of G Research Park.

Nailer says teachers like the curriculum materials, which make it easy to organize field trips to the museum and to integrate the visit into classroom instruction.

"Guelph had a key role in developing the program," she says. Other partners are the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, local hospitals, and area companies and charitable organizations.

Also on display this winter at the museum are works by undergraduate students in Guelph's "Anatomy for Artists" course.

Going With the Grain

U of G cereals researcher aims to strengthen the staff of life

By Andrew Vowles

THERE'S MORE TO CEREALS than the contents of your breakfast bowl. Just ask Guelph food science professor Koushik Seetharaman. Helping to design more healthful grain-based products and widen markets for grain farmers and processors across the province is the purpose of his studies under an Industry Research Chair in Cereal Technology that was established at U of G three years ago.

Along with a nearly 20-strong research team, Seetharaman is working on key topics that connect plant breeders and growers all the way to your breakfast bowl and your dinner plate.

Funding for the \$1.1-million endowed chair came from the Ontario Cereals Industry Research Council (OCIRC), the federally funded Agricultural Adaptation Council and U of G. The OCIRC represents cereal breeders, millers and processors in the province.

"We've got the entire value chain supporting the position," says Seetharaman.

He is developing tools to help understand and improve functionality of cereal proteins. Protein networks in grain-based products are complicated and varied — just think of the difference between hard rye bread and fluffy white bread.

Learning more about those differences is important for growers, processors and consumers alike, including food processors looking to verify the properties of flour coming from grain millers, he says.

That information will also benefit breeders if the researchers can pinpoint genes associated with various proteins. "We hope to improve the next generation of wheat crop and breeding strategies."

Seetharaman is also evaluating possible benefits of "pink" wheat as an alternative to traditionally grown white wheat and the reds that more farmers are now growing. Red wheats often darken whole-grain products, a turnoff for consumers demanding more of these foods. He says pinks might resist *Fusarium* — a common fungus — while still yielding attributes that consumers want.

Another health concern is acrylamide, a chemical that forms naturally in carbohydrate-rich foods cooked or processed at high temperatures. Think of darkened toast, spray-dried infant formula, french fries, potato chips and other fried foods, he says.

The substance is a potential carcinogen. Since early 2009, Health Canada has been assessing whether acrylamide poses a human health hazard and whether it needs to be regulated.

In the baking lab in the Food Science Building, the Guelph team is studying such questions as how and where the substance forms in order to minimize possible problems not just with



baked goods but with other foods as well.

Seetharaman says Health Canada's assessment is also important to help establish toxicity levels and comparative risks. As with any potential toxin, dose response is critical, he says.

That means young children with their smaller body mass might be more vulnerable than grownups. The science isn't yet in, but Seetharaman says he avoids over-toasting bread for his four-year-old son, Samuel, and resists buying certain kinds of potato chips.

Wryly, he adds that — like generations of parents — he had exhorted his son to eat his bread crusts, precisely where acrylamides are most likely to form.

"Now I don't say that," says Seetharaman, a longtime vegetarian whose early exposure to his field involved tagging along as a child with his late father, an agricultural economist who travelled between farms in their native India.

Seetharaman's wife, Debra Freedman, is a lecturer in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition.

The food scientist is also helping to dispel long-held wisdom in another area. Scientists and nutritionists used to claim that starch from one plant such as corn was the same as that from another plant like rice. His studies suggest that's not the case, an important point for anyone trying to swap one formulation for another.

"Starch is not starch is not starch," says Seetharaman, who, years before coming to Guelph, once served as an expert witness on a case pitting two companies in a dispute over starch formulations.

Now he's looking at how plants make starch, beginning down at the molecular level. That involves working with other Guelph researchers. Here, molecular biologists, plant and food scientists, and human health and nutrition researchers are studying resistant starches intended ultimately to reduce diabetes risk by regulating the body's insulin response to food carbohydrates.

Complementing that group's work, Seetharaman is looking at how to process simple starches to temper the body's response and avoid the blood glucose spikes that prompt rises in insulin and contribute to diabetes.

A graduate of Gujarat Agricultural University in India, Cornell University and Texas A&M University, he did post-doctoral work at Iowa State University, was on faculty at Penn State and was a consultant to the cereals industry before arriving at U of G. Besides now belonging to the largest food science department in North America — including faculty and students — he is the only food scientist working on soft wheat in eastern Canada.

That's important to the province's bakers and millers, says Peter Illycky, a business development consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in Guelph. He says Seetharaman connects industry, government and academia in research and teaching needed to maintain Ontario's place among the top two or three jurisdictions in North American food processing.

Pointing to the number of researchers and students working in the food scientist's labs, Illycky says: "That speaks volumes. Those people are going to go to industry, they're going to go off and create wealth with firms, and the circle continues."

Seetharaman also teaches an undergraduate cereals course and leads external workshops for industry.

'Writing Gave Me a Mental Break From It All'

Stories in MFA student's debut collection forged in crucible of war in Afghanistan

By Deirdre Healey

UOF G MASTER'S STUDENT Matt Lennox was in the middle of a war zone when he wrote many of the works featured in his first published collection of short stories, *Men of Salt, Men of Earth*.

It was 2008, and Lennox, who is now doing a master of fine arts in creative writing at the University of Guelph-Humber, was a staff officer at Canada's military headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Living under the constant threat of rocket attacks and dealing with the injuries and deaths of other soldiers, he turned to writing as an escape.

"I was working in a pretty nasty place where people were doing pretty nasty things to each other," he says. "It can really take a toll on you. Writing gave me a mental break from it all."

Lennox was responsible for monitoring what was happening on the front line and responding to radio calls for medical help. It was a job

that required him to be constantly on alert.

But at night when the fighting calmed and the radios were quiet, he would write. During his 10 months in Kandahar as a reservist, he completed 12 short stories and decided to send them off to a publisher.

"Up until this point, writing had always been just a hobby," he says.

"It wasn't anything I took seriously. But I really started writing a lot more while I was in Kandahar, and the momentum has continued since I

came back."

Men of Salt, Men of Earth was published in the fall by Oberon Press in Ottawa and contains a majority of the stories Lennox wrote while serving in Afghanistan, but none of them focus on his war experiences. He admits he's still unsure if that's a subject he wants to tackle.

"I haven't yet answered the question as to whether or not I've earned the right to speak for a number of others."

Instead, the theme of searching

for male identity runs throughout the book.

"Many of my stories investigate what it means to be a modern man. We live in an era where male identity no longer has any definition. This is evident in Canadian literature, which is very feminine overall."

Lennox continues to balance his passion for writing with his career in the military. While completing his MFA, he is working full-time with the Canadian Forces running the provincial operations centre.

Environmental, Human Health Focus of Programs

Toxicology will now have single administrative home

BY ANDREW VOWLES

ALL IT THE CHEMISTRY of health. Human and environmental health is the focus of two chemistry-heavy undergraduate programs — a revamped offering in toxicology and a new program in biological and pharmaceutical chemistry — to be offered next fall at U of G.

This year's changes to existing programs are intended to attract more students, streamline administration and offer more flexible scheduling, says Prof. Adrian Schwan, chair of the Department of Chemistry.

U of G's long-standing toxicology program will now be based in the College of Physical and Engineering Science under the direction of chemistry professor Richard Manderville. Formerly, it was run jointly by the College of Biological Science and the Ontario Veterinary College with students in two streams: biomedical or environmental toxicology.

Now both streams have been merged into a single program, with a co-op option.

The change will give the program's roughly 140 students a single administrative home and program and will consolidate funding and administration in one department, says Manderville, who will become director in the fall.

"I think it's a better program," he says. "All students are taking common courses."

In this interdisciplinary program, students learn about the health and environmental impacts of toxic substances, including metals, drugs, industrial chemicals, pesticides and foods. They also study toxicological testing, used to ensure safety of products before their release. A growing area is nanotoxicology, or the effects of substances at vanishingly small scales.

The program is taught by faculty

from 12 departments across campus, mostly in CBS, OVC, CPES and the Ontario Agricultural College. Several faculty belong to the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centres based at Guelph.

"Toxicology grads have no problem getting jobs," says CPES recruitment officer Bonnie Lasby. "Guelph is well-known for its toxicology program."

The new B.Sc. degree in biological and pharmaceutical chemistry will replace the former biological chemistry major and the B.Sc. (Technology) degree in applied pharmaceutical chemistry.

The new major will offer students more flexibility in course selection, says chemistry professor Lori Jones.

"The biological chemistry major had a very structured schedule of studies and did not offer a co-op option," she says. "The applied pharmaceutical chemistry major required students to juggle four co-op placements, studies at U of G and two semesters at Seneca College in Toronto, with only three elective courses."

Adds Lasby: "Some students did not want to go to a second school midway through their degree."

The new program will be available in both co-op and non-co-op; students interested in the pharmaceutical industry can spend one semester at Seneca for special training.

All students in this program will learn about molecular modelling, synthesis, drug design, analytical techniques and vaccine chemistry. As with toxicology, graduates might pursue careers in regulation and law, research, medicine (including veterinary medicine), pharmacy or engineering.

Schwan says the Department of Chemistry hopes to attract about 50 students a year to the program. About 160 undergraduates are currently pursuing chemistry majors at U of G.

SAIF ALTIMIMI

Second-year engineering student

"Islam is a misunderstood religion," says Saif Altimimi, president of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) on campus. "That's why our association tries to build bridges into the community. I think the media try to demonize Islam, but the basic concept of our religion is peace. People see Islamic countries at war and think that's what it's all about, but that's political. People confuse political things with religion."

The MSA hosts events and invites speakers to campus in addition to arranging what Altimimi calls "the basics" — prayer space and Ramadan feasts. Many events are intended to share information about Islam with members of the Guelph community, he says.

The MSA has more than 1,000 members on its mailing list and a solid core of active participants, so Altimimi is kept busy keeping things running. Despite that, he has also found time to start a new business — and it's not his first.

"I'm an aspiring entrepreneur," he says. "Most new ventures start to solve a problem, and that's the case with this one. I had a cellphone bill that was ridiculously high, mainly because I'd made several calls back home to Morocco. It got me thinking there had to be a better way."

After some research, Altimimi partnered with friends Yousif Faraawi and Adeel Jameel to create Quacktalk, which connects phones wirelessly to the Internet so people can make long-distance calls without extra fees.



Saif Altimimi

Ferguson's two sisters and many of her friends join her on this annual expedition. "It's a lot of fun," she says. "We have the same bus driver every year, and he's great."

Back here at home, Ferguson keeps active and fit with weekly Pilates classes. "My sister encouraged me to join, and I really enjoy it. I feel exhausted by the end of it, but I also feel good."

Her other favourite after-hours activity was also inspired by her sister. "She likes to garden, and whenever she was thinning out her plants, she'd bring over some lilacs or hostas and give them to me."

Naturally, Ferguson couldn't let them go to waste, so she began gardening as well and found she loved it. "I'm counting the days until the warmer weather so I can begin beautifying our new deck with plants. I also have a large vegetable garden and make salsa and other things with the food I grow."

JIM ATKINSON

Faculty member in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science since 1974

When Prof. Jim Atkinson arrived at U of G 40 years ago from England to do his PhD, the first question one of his new grad student colleagues asked him was whether he played rugby. "My answer was: 'Of course,'" says Atkinson. He was immediately tapped to play for U of G.

Four years later, he became coach of the U of G men's team, then helped launch the women's rugby team program in 1992. After serving as head coach of the women's team for 11 years, he stepped down but continues to help out as assistant coach and also continues to referee high school games in Guelph and the Grey-Bruce area.

In 2007, Atkinson got involved with U of G's United Way campaign as co-chair and continued on in that position in 2008 and 2009. "It's my methadone to help me recover from my coaching addiction," he jokes. He's also a faculty adviser for College Royal, overseeing animal events such as Old MacDonald's New Farm.

Last year, Atkinson ventured into new territory, spending a month in Africa with his wife, Susan.

"That was on our wish list for a long time," he says. "It became our belated 40th-anniversary gift to each other, and we went to South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. We've always been interested in wild animals, and this was a chance to see them in their natural environment. We certainly hope to do more of the same in the future."



Jim Atkinson

LORI FERGUSON

Department secretary in the Department of Integrative Biology, joined U of G in 1979

The Friday after the U.S. Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day in the States. And that's when Lori Ferguson heads to Pennsylvania with a busload of other shoppers to grab some bargains.

"The main thing is that you have to like shopping," she says. "One of my neighbours started it, and at first she brought just a few friends in a van. Now we have an entire busload. We drive for six hours, stay in a hotel for two nights and shop till we drop."



Lori Ferguson

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HTM Internship in Laos Offers Unique Learning Opportunity

Teaching English to monks, consulting with hoteliers all in a day's work for student

BY REBECCA KENDALL

WITH HIS WINDOWS OPEN on a late February night, Kevin Allen is enjoying the end of the cool dry season in southern Laos. It's 25 C outside and one of the few nights that Allen, a fifth-year U of G hospitality and tourism management student, isn't socializing with new friends at one of the riverside restaurant patios.

"On average, I meet a Canadian once a week," he says. "Canadians are far more common in Laos than Americans, though, and there are lots of Germans and Brits."

This semester, Allen, who is set to graduate in June, is doing tourism research while teaching English and doing an internship at the Arawan Riverside Hotel in Pakse, a city of 200,000.

"I wanted to complete my final semester in Laos because I knew it would be a big challenge that would allow me to draw on all the lessons and experiences I've had at Guelph over the last five years," he says.

As a tourist destination, Pakse is not as developed as cities in northern Laos, but government support is helping in its efforts to market itself to ecotourists, says Allen. It was an interest in ecotourism that first brought him to Pakse in 2009 for the World Ecotourism Conference and to conduct research with Prof. Steve Lynch, Hospitality and Tourism Management. Their work led to a co-authored paper that Allen presented in October at the annual conference of the Canadian chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association.

Their work also led them to travel to northern Laos with a contact from Guelph to teach English to a group of monks at a Buddhist college.

"It was the first time a native English speaker had come to teach them," says Allen. Normally, the monks would walk an hour from home to take lessons.

Besides learning about a religion and lifestyle that were much different from his own, he was surprised to find some of the creature comforts of home at the temple.

"Some of the monks had digital cameras and cellphones," he says, noting that he still receives text messages from the monks from time to time with simple English greetings and phrases. "In some ways, the monks live a simple life, but then you see the technology and you see how the modern world is affecting them."

Since January, Allen has been



Hospitality and tourism management student Kevin Allen, who is doing an internship at a hotel in southern Laos, poses by a waterfall called Tad Phasuum in Champasak Province.

PHOTO BY TOTI THAMMAVONG

continuing his research while working to advance the goals of the Arawan Riverside Hotel.

"The hotel is struggling and is in the process of reopening," he says. "It's trying to attract more of the European and North American market. At the moment, the hotel relies heavily on group tours from Thailand."

Located on the Mekong River, the Arawan is close to many popular attractions, including the Konpang and Li Phi waterfalls, the rare freshwater Irrawaddy dolphins and Wat Phou, an ancient temple complex that has been listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO. Many ecotourists also enjoy guided treks and elephant tours through the many national protected areas, says Allen.

"It's a very different experience here because Laos has gone through years of civil conflict and didn't start welcoming foreign tourists until the early 1990s. The Lao are very welcoming, but it took a bit of time for people to let down their guard with me. No foreigner had ever come to

Pakse to work with them. They also have challenges because it's a developing nation."

Arawan wants to be a five-star hotel but doesn't have the resources to do so, he says.

"Tourists often want a certain kind of experience that my colleagues here can't accommodate. Because the Lao economy is still developing, the hotel has to import about 90 per cent of its supplies from Thailand. That adds big challenges and expenses to running the hotel."

Allen has also experienced leadership from a unique perspective during his stay.

"The hotel is operated by Lao-tians, who traditionally are laid-back and do things at a slower pace. It's interesting to see the differences between them and the hotel's Thai managers, whose leadership is much more direct. Both cultures highly value relationships, and they work together well to provide the best guest experience they can. It takes some time for them to warm up, but once they get to know you, they welcome you like family."

Maple Liqueur Takes Top Prize at Nicol Competition

Student entrepreneurs pitch their products

A MAPLE-FLAVOURED liqueur called Canadian Maple Cream earned a team of U of G senior undergraduates first place at the third annual Nicol Venture Creation Competition hosted March 3 by the College of Management and Economics (CME).

Stephanie May, Allison Walker and Devan Sloan walked away with \$5,000 for their uniquely Canadian sweet liqueur. Prize money for the competition is donated by the Wesley and Mary Nicol Charitable Foundation.

Designed to recognize student entrepreneurship, the competition gives students from various disciplines an opportunity to pitch their product ideas to a panel of elite judges. This year's judges were John Kelly, vice-president of Erie Innovation and Commercialization with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association; Tom McKaig, owner of Thomas McKaig International Inc.; and Kevin Cahill, president of Cahill Financial Services.

An audience made up of Guelph Centennial Collegiate high school students, members of the University community, and family and friends

was also on hand for the evening's four student presentations.

Winners of the second prize of \$2,000 were Krista Dewsbury, Josh Gauci and Meron Habtemichael for their Hazelnut Frozen Yogurt, which offers a healthier alternative to ice cream. Third prize of \$1,000 went to Amrito Bhattarai and Jayant Sharma for their plan to develop Pro-D, a protein beverage targeted at combatting hunger.

Competition organizer Melanie Lang, director of CME's Co-operators Centre for Business and Social Entrepreneurship, says the products presented showcased the entrepreneurial spirit of each of the student participants.

"It was a pleasure to see them apply what they've learned throughout their studies to a unique business plan and to see how passionate and invested they had become in their ideas," she says.

Six teams from across Canada will be selected to proceed to the national Nicol Entrepreneurial Award competition March 30 in Ottawa. For more information about the Nicol award, visit the website www.nicol-award.com.

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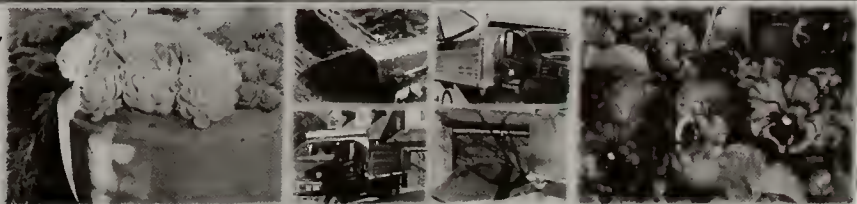
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TSS to Showcase New Curriculum Technologies

THROUGH ITS INVOLVEMENT with many U of G departments engaged in changing components of their curriculum, Teaching Support Services (TSS) has created and implemented a number of cutting-edge technologies to help faculty improve their curriculum.

To share some of these successes with others across campus who are involved in curriculum change or will be tackling this challenge in the near future, TSS is hosting a showcase called "Mapping the Curriculum" March 31 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 106 of Rozanski Hall. A question period will follow.

The presentation will offer an in-depth look at three programs: Tuft's University Visual Understanding Environment, which has been used to generate maps of course progression pathways for un-

dergraduate majors; U of G's Curriclit program, which enables faculty teams to see how intended learning outcomes are methodically and deliberately developed throughout curricula; and the e-portfolio tool, which has been used to capture and consider evidence of student achievement of intended learning objectives.

Although the presentation will be of particular interest to members and chairs of curriculum committees, curriculum working groups, departmental chairs, associate deans and deans, anyone with an interest in curriculum mapping is welcome to attend.

Enrolment for the event is limited. Online registration is available through the TSS website, www.tss.uoguelph.ca. If you have questions, call Mary Nairn at Ext. 53571.



On Stage

U of G theatre studies students, from left, Shelby Vilneff, Kaya Bucholtz, Josh Marentette and Jennifer Alterio rehearse a scene from their spring production, an adaptation of *RUR* (Rossum's Universal Robots) from the 1920 work by Czech playwright Karel Capek. Directed by Prof. Jerrard Smith and designed by Diana Smith, the show runs March 22 to 27 at 8 p.m. in the George Luscombe Theatre. Tickets are \$8 Monday to Wednesday and \$10 Thursday to Saturday and are available in Room 102 of Massey Hall, by calling Ext. 53147 or at the door.

PHOTO BY JERRARD SMITH

Editor's note: This is one in a series of columns on the tree species that can be found on the U of G campus. It is written by certified arborist Rob Shaw-Lukavsky, a gardener in the Grounds Department.

A TREE THAT HAS some esthetic value in the dead of winter is a welcome addition to any landscape, but the paperbark maple doesn't stop there — it's a stunning small tree year-round.

Check out the young specimen in the northeast corner of the Pinkney Gardens behind the OVC Learning Centre cafeteria. Against a backdrop of snow and surrounded by dormant gardens, the tree stands out dramatically and emphasizes its uniqueness.

Native to China, the paperbark maple gets its name from the reddish-orange colour of the bark on the trunk and branches. Much like paper birch bark, the maple's bark peels and flakes off, creating a

slightly shaggy look, and the reddish translucent hue gives the tree an exotic appearance. In fact, you have to look closely to even suspect this is a species of maple. The leaves have little maple shape and almost appear to be in groupings of three. It's really only the maple "keys" (or fruit) that give the tree's genealogy away.

In the fall, paperbark maple rivals its sugar and red maple relatives for leaf colour. The leaves that grow a deep bluish-green through the summer change to one of the most intense reds of any landscape tree.

Although resilient in many urban settings, the species is not very cold-hardy, and the Pinkney Gardens tree owes much to its sheltered environment. In addition, the fruit is seedless, and propagation can be difficult.

For these reasons, the paperbark's genetic pool has become a concern, and attempts are being made to find new seed sources from the wild.

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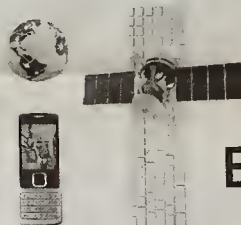
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Two-bedroom recently renovated apartment in quiet duplex in Kitchener, close to Chicopee and Fairview Mall, large yard, parking for two vehicles, small pets OK, \$800 a month inclusive, 519-578-5938 or stephenmadill@hotmail.com.

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Classifieds is a free service available to staff, faculty, students, alumni and retirees of the University. Submit items to Linda Graham on Level 4 of the University Centre, fax to 519-824-7962 or send email to l.graham@exec.uoguelph.ca.



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held at the end of the semester for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by March 12 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@exec.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039. The following people correctly reported that the Feb. 24 photo was of a light fixture in Creelman Hall: Naomi Musselman, Cathy Walton, Bill Clair, Danny Martin, Jonathan Fitzgerald, Shane Danis, John Van Manen and Ray Hutchison.

PHOTO BY NICOLE RUNHAM

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EVENTS

ARBORETUM

Naturalist Chris Earley leads a duck workshop focusing on bluebills, hickory heads and spiketails March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. Registration deadline is March 17. Call Ext. 52358.

"Urban Wildlife Habitat Gardening" is the focus of guest instructor Leslie Work April 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. Registration deadline is March 26.

CONCERTS

The Thursday at Noon concert series continues March 11 with classical guitarist Cary Savage and March 18 with Trio Albonata, featuring Annette-Barbara Vogel on violin, Simon Fryer on cello and Elizabeth Bergmann on piano. On March 25, the Top Pocket Jazz Quartet performs, with Andy Klehn on saxophone, Paul Stouffer on piano, Mike Bergauer on bass and Donnie McDougall on drums. Concerts are at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

The U of G Jazz Ensemble led by Andrew Scott performs March 25 at 8 p.m. at Manhattans Pizza Bistro and Jazz Club. Cover charge is \$2.

John Goddard conducts the U of G Concert Winds March 26 at 8 p.m. at Harcourt Church. Tickets are \$10 general, \$5 for students and seniors.

Henry Janzen leads the U of G Chamber Ensembles March 28 at 3 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

FILM

"Docurama," a free film series sponsored by the U of G Library and the Central Student Association, continues March 11 with *Capitalism: A Love Story*, March 18 with *Act of God* and March 25 with *Big River Man* at 7 p.m. in Thornbrough 1200.

LECTURES

The School of Languages and Literatures public lecture series continues March 10 with Catherine Caws of the University of Victoria discussing "Regards sur l'écriture en L2 à partir de l'exploitation du Web 2.0" at 4:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 020. On March 12, Salvadoran novelist Horacio Castellanos Moya will speak at 2:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 311.

The C.J. Munford Centre hosts a Black History Month lecture with Ontario Fairness Commissioner and U of G honorary degree recipient Jean Augustine March 10 at 5 p.m. in MacKinnon 121.

British art curator Iwona Blazwick presents "Just What Is It That Makes Today's Institutions So Different, So Appealing?" at the Shenkman Lecture in Contemporary Art March 10 at 5:30 p.m. in War Memorial Hall.

Michael Ann Holly of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Massachusetts is guest speaker in the School of Fine Art and Music's art history visiting speakers series March 12 at 4:30 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307. She will discuss "Object Lessons: Silence, Solace, Study in Art History."

The Department of Physics hosts its CAP Lecture March 17 with Keshav Dasgupta of McGill University presenting "How String Theory Explains the Origin of Our Universe" at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 113.

The Department of History and the Centre for Scottish Studies present an illustrated lecture by David Caldwell of the National Museum of Scotland March 22 at 2:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 132. His topic is "The Lewis Chessmen: New Light on Medieval Lewis and the Kingdom of the Isles."

NOTICES

The Guelph chapter of Engineers Without Borders hosts "An Evening of Art and Agriculture: Focus on Zambia" March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Italian Canadian Club. It will feature a workshop and a silent auction. Tickets are \$20 (\$30 for two and \$50 for four) and are available from the School of Engineering or by email at afedec@uoguelph.ca.

The School of Environmental Sciences and the Bookshelf kick off a series called "Environment Bound" March 15. Naturalist Trevor Herriot will discuss his book *Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds* at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf eBar.

The College of Management and Economics will hold an information session on the MA (Leadership) program March 10 and one on the MBA program March 11. Both begin at 7 p.m. in Macdonald Stewart 129. RSVP at www.leadership.uoguelph.ca or www.mba.uoguelph.ca.

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic presents "Stress Less for Tests," a two-session program that runs March 16 and 18 at 5:30 p.m. in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers or leave a message at Ext. 52662.

SEMINARS

The Department of Plant Agriculture seminar series continues March 10 with Prof. Barry Micallef discussing "Coping in Time and Space: Biological Rhythms and Their Significance in Plants." On March 17, the topic is "Genes, Genomics and Regulatory Networks in Brassica" with Adrian Cutler of the National Research Council of Canada. On March 24, Prof. Ian Tetlow, Molecular and Cellular Biology, explains

"Control and Regulation of Storage Starch Biosynthesis in Plants." The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307.

Brian Coombes of McMaster University is guest speaker in the Department of Pathobiology seminar series March 12. His topic is "Bacterial Pathogenomics: More Than Just A, C, T and Gs." The series continues March 19 with Prof. Darren Wood's lab discussing hemostasis research at OVC and March 26 with Prof. Allan King, Biomedical Sciences, on "Sex: Things You Didn't Learn in Sex Ed." The talks begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

Next up in the Department of Economics seminar series March 12 is Mahmut Parlar of McMaster University describing "Research With Maple: Methods and Models" at 3:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 306. The series continues March 15 with Ke-Li Xu of the University of Alberta discussing "Empirical Likelihood for Regression Discontinuity Design" at 10 a.m. in MacKinnon 318 and March 19 with Alain-Desire Nimubona of the University of Waterloo on "Polluters and Abators" at 3:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 306.

The Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology's plant biology seminar series continues March 15 with Prof. Barry Shelp, Plant Agriculture, discussing "Two Decades of GABA Research on Plants" and March 22 with MCB professor George van der Merwe explaining "The Adaptations of Yeast to Fermentation Stress." The seminars begin at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

"Adiponectin Resistance: A Link Between High-Fat Diets and Insulin Resistance" is the focus of PhD candidate Kerry Mullen in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences seminar series March 15. On March 22, the topic is "Molecular Basis of Mitochondrial Biogenesis in Muscle: Effect of Exercise and Age" with David Hood, Canada Research Chair in Cell Physiology at York University. The seminars are at 3:30 p.m. in Food Science 241.

Next up in the Department of Integrative Biology seminar series March 16 is Greg Goss of the University of Alberta presenting "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Comparative Models of Ion and Acid-Base Transport." On March 23, Denis Réale of the University of Quebec at Montreal explores "Personality Differences and the Emergence of a Pace-of-Life Syndrome at the Population Level." The seminars are at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

The Department of Chemistry presents Simon Trudel of the University of Calgary discussing "New Ap-

proaches to Nanoscaled Magnetic Materials" March 18. On March 25, the topic is "Using Electrical Conductance (an Old Trick) to Probe Aqueous Solutions at Extreme Conditions" with Greg Zimmerman of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. The seminars begin at 10:45 a.m. in science complex 1511.

SYMPOSIA

The Guelph Classics Society hosts its third annual symposium March 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307. This year's theme is "Classics in Contemporary Culture," with topics ranging from the influence of classics on modern philosophical thought to the integration of technology into classics research. Register at http://events.uoguelph.ca/ei/getdemo.ei?id=96&s=_3150X8U4N.

Fine art students host the fourth annual ARTHattack symposium March 19 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. Six students will present papers on art history and visual culture, to be followed by a keynote talk by Gerald McMaster, curator of Canadian art at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for Teaching Support Services events can be found at www.tss.uoguelph.ca.

"Are Women Changing Academe?" is the focus of TSS's "Women in Academe" discussion series March 15. Facilitator is Prof. Janet Wood, Molecular and Cellular Biology.

The graduate student workshop series continues with "Planning an Exam Review Session and Exam Invigilation" March 11 and "A Review of Research on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education" March 24.

March 12 is the deadline to submit presentation proposals for the 23rd annual Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference. Slated for May 11, this year's conference will focus on the theme "Collaborating: Thinking Together. Learning Together. Teaching Together." For details and proposal forms, visit www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli.

THEATRE

The School of English and Theatre Studies presents an adaptation of *RUR (Rossum's Universal Robots)* from the 1920 work by Karel Capek March 22 to 27 at 8 p.m. in the George Luscombe Theatre. Tickets are \$8 and \$10.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Keith Stamplecoskie, Integrative Biology, is March 11 at 1 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is

"Using Light to Improve Attraction, Entrance and Retention of Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) Traps." The adviser is Prof. Gord McDonald.

The final examination of Anthony Vander Schaaf, a PhD candidate in the Department of Philosophy, is March 15 at 10 a.m. in MacKinnon 346. The thesis is "Frankenfood Meets the Gastronome: A Philosophical Analysis of Some Ontological and Axiological Aspects of the Genetic Modification of Food." The adviser is Prof. Karen Houle.

The final examination of Christian Danve Castroverde, an M.Sc. candidate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, is March 15 at 1 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Defence Gene Expression in the Tomato-Vectirillium Pathosystem." The advisers are Profs. Jane Robb and Ross Nazar.

The final examination of PhD candidate Katerina Koka, Economics, is March 22 at 1 p.m. in MacKinnon 314. The thesis is "Three Essays on Life-Cycle Analysis." The advisers are Profs. Stephen Kosempel and Brian Ferguson.

The final examination of PhD candidate Heather Murphy, Engineering, is March 24 at 2 p.m. in Thornbrough 1360. The thesis is "A Critical Evaluation of the Appropriateness of Ceramic and Biosand Filters in Rural Cambodia." The advisers are Profs. Ed McBean and Khosrow Farahbakhsh.

The final examination of PhD candidate Kim Anderson, History, is March 26 at 1 p.m. in MacKinnon 2020. The thesis is "Algonquin Women: Life Stage, Gender and Identity, 1930 to 1960." The adviser is Prof. Terry Crowley.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Guelph-Wellington branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario hosts a public talk by architect Allan Killen on "Old and New in the New City Hall" March 17 at 7 p.m. at Guelph City Hall.

The Guelph Field Naturalists present Joe Crowley of Ontario Nature discussing "Ontario Reptiles at Risk" March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arboretum.

The Guelph Legion is hosting an Elton John tribute dinner and show March 26. For information, visit www.guelphlegion.ca.

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis presents a free workshop on "Discovering Who You Are" March 25 at 1 p.m. Register at 519-823-5806.

Dublin Street Church's Sunday concert series continues March 21 at 3 p.m. with the Dublin Chancel Choir.

INSIDE: FROM GOURMET TO GROTESQUE • MEN'S TRACK TEAM WINS GOLD • FOOD, FUEL AND MORE

Sustainability Task Force Seeks Input From Community

Group to hold town hall meeting April 6 to get ideas, feedback

BY LORI BONA HUNT

GOT AN IDEA about how U of G can enhance sustainability both on and off campus? If so, the Presidential Task Force on Sustainability wants to hear from you.

The task force is looking to the University community for feedback and input on the various ways U of G can promote desirable and achievable social, economic and environmental sustainability practices.

It plans to run at least two town hall meetings in the coming weeks, starting with one April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Peter Clark Hall. People can also email suggestions and ideas to sustainability@uoguelph.ca.

"Our mission is to create opportunities for discourse and action," says Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research), who chairs the task force. "We want to hear from everyone — students, faculty and staff from all our campuses — who has ideas about how we can live and work more sustainably. Whether it's using less energy and water, initiating social and economic changes, or enhancing our teaching and learning practices, we as a university need to look for ways to put fewer demands on the planet."

It's a sentiment that's been expressed often by president Alastair Summerlee, who created the task force earlier this year.

"Everything we teach, do, build and op-

erate should help ensure the current and future welfare of our local and global communities," he says. "It's a responsibility and commitment that we all must embrace, collectively and individually."

Hall says the task force will take a comprehensive view of sustainability, focusing on the basic principles: the environment, communities and the economy. It will look at issues related to carbon footprint, water use, sustainable practices in teaching and academic programs, and future initiatives that could also benefit other communities.

The group has been asked to present an interim progress report to the president this summer.

The task force's members are: Abeir Arquso, executive assistant to the vice-president (research); fourth-year B.Comm. student Gavin Armstrong; Lori Bona Hunt, associate director (news service), Communications and Public Affairs; Bob Carter, assistant vice-president (physical resources); OAC graduate student Arthur Churchyard; Prof. Rumina Dhalla, Business; OAC dean Rob Gordon; Dan MacLachlan, director of maintenance and energy services in Physical Resources; sustainability co-ordinator Gillian Maurice; Prof. Rich Moccia, associate vice-president (research) agri-food and partnerships; Prof. Beth Parker, Engineering; Mike Ridley, chief information officer and chief librarian; and Irene Thompson, director of Student Housing Services.



In remission from acute promyelocytic leukemia for almost a year, third-year BA student Samantha Smith-Moskal is chairing this year's Relay for Life. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

Running a Relay for Life

Student's cancer fight spurs leadership of annual campus fundraiser

BY LORI BONA HUNT

UOF G STUDENT Samantha Smith-Moskal knows first-hand what it's like to battle cancer. At this time last year, she was still dealing with some severe side effects of her fight against acute promyelocytic leukemia. But this month, she will join with others from U of G and raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society during Relay for Life March 27 and 28.

"Having cancer was the worst experience of my life," says Smith-Moskal, a third-year French studies student who is chairing this year's event. "I want as few people as possible to go through it."

Relay for Life is a 12-hour non-competitive event that runs in the Gryphon Dome from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The fundraising initiative takes place across Canada and the United States at various times throughout the year. U of G was the first university to organize a relay, and this is the sixth year for the event. Guelph currently holds the record for the most money raised by a post-secondary institution.

"This is my first year participating," Smith-Moskal says, adding that she was inspired to take part because a friend participated on her behalf last year. The U of G committee is made up of students from various years and majors, "so it's a great way of bringing people together."

She was diagnosed with cancer in fall 2008 during a semester abroad in France. "I noticed a couple of bruises I couldn't remember getting." The bruising intensified, and she was eventually diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia.

"It's one of the more easily treatable types of cancer, with a cure rate of up to 95 per cent," she says. "But I still had to endure three rounds of chemotherapy, and I had complications such as a blood clot in my lung, hypercalcemia (an excess of calcium that can be fatal), infections and pneumonia." She's been in remission for nearly a year.

The U of G committee is looking for participants, volunteers and cancer survivors, says Smith-Moskal. Registration is \$10 each and can be done online at http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR?fr_id=6840&pg=entry. For more information, send email to relay@uoguelph.ca.

Walsh Reappointed at Guelph-Humber

Vice-provost to serve second five-year term

PROF. JOHN WALSH has been appointed to a second five-year term as vice-provost for the University of Guelph-Humber. Prof. Maureen Mancuso, U of G provost and vice-president (academic), and Michael Hatton, vice-president (academic) at the Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, announced the reappointment last week.

"John has done an outstanding job in moving the University of Guelph-Humber forward," said Hatton. "Under his leadership, it has become an institution of choice for students from the GTA and beyond."

Mancuso said the unique partnership between U of G and Humber College has become a model for education in Ontario.

"John has helped us succeed in expand-

ing student opportunity by enabling students to earn a university honours degree and a college diploma in four years of study."

Guelph-Humber began offering classes in fall 2002 with faculty members from both institutions. In 2004, it moved to its own \$45-million state-of-the-art building on the Humber campus.

"I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to serve a second term as vice-provost," Walsh said. "The past several years have seen our applicants increase in number and quality and our graduates build successful careers. I look forward to continuing to work with our innovative and energetic faculty, staff and students here at the University of Guelph-Humber."

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Prof Joins Federal Task Force

Preventive health care focus of 15-member interprofessional group

BY REBECCA KENDALL

PROF. PAULA BRAUER, Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, has been named to the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care.

The mandate of the 15-member group is to develop and communicate clinical practice guidelines for primary and preventive care, based on systematic analysis of scientific evidence. It will also serve as an authoritative voice that speaks to relevant issues in the health-care field,

says Brauer, whose research focuses on the effectiveness of lifestyle intervention programs in primary care, especially for obesity and metabolic syndrome.

"It's an opportunity to have some influence in the broader arena and to improve our health-care system," she says.

Brauer believes a national interprofessional group such as this is needed to make evidence-informed recommendations for preventive health care. This includes such issues as cancer screening, vaccinations

and lifestyle interventions to prevent progression to clinical disease in people with risk factors like high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels.

"Our role will be to vet the evidence and recommend the most feasible, effective and important options to promote the health of Canadians."

Brauer will meet her new task force colleagues in late April during a two-day meeting in Ottawa. For more information, visit www.canadiantaskforce.ca/index.html.

Clearing the Air About Smog

Economist questions link between air pollution, serious health effects

BY LORI BONA HUNT

CHALLENGING conventional wisdom, Prof. Ross McKittrick, Economics, says claims about the health effects of air pollution are not supported by data from Canadian cities.

McKittrick, along with Gary Koop of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and Lise Tole of the University of Edinburgh, analyzed a new database from 11 Canadian cities over a 20-year period. Unlike most earlier studies, theirs included controls for effects of smoking and income. They found no evidence that air pollution affected either hospital admission rates or time spent in hospitals. But they did determine that both smoking and income level directly affect respiratory health.

Their findings appeared last week in the journal *Environmental Modelling and Software*.

The researchers looked at monthly hospital admission rates between 1974 and 1994 for all lung

ailments and compared them with ambient levels of five common air contaminants.

"We were looking for predictable common physical effects from standardized exposure levels," says McKittrick.

He adds that they examined data over a longer time span than most previous studies and used Bayesian model averaging to ensure they considered all possible combinations of effects.

"Our examination of data back to the early 1970s was motivated in part by the fact that air pollution was much higher compared with today," he says. "If today's air pollution levels are causing thousands of hospitalizations, the effects should have been even stronger in the 1970s when air quality was much worse. But the data showed no evidence of health effects at the pollution levels observed in Canada over recent decades."

The findings contradict hundreds of studies that have connected

urban air pollution levels and respiratory health problems. Such studies have resulted in calls for tighter air pollution regulations and more stringent emission standards.

McKittrick says the discrepancies between this study and earlier research stem from the common practice of using short data sets and not controlling for model uncertainty, smoking rates and socioeconomic variables. He adds that the current study drew data samples from the 1970s, when many Canadian cities had high pollution levels, through the 1980s, when steady reductions began, and into the 1990s, when pollution levels were historically low.

"It's important to get accurate measures of the potential benefits of air pollution regulations, namely improved quality of life and reduced health-care costs, in order to guide regulatory decision-making," he says. "We did find consistent evidence that lower smoking rates lead to fewer hospital admissions and shorter stays."

Men's Track Team Wins Gold

Gryphons bring home 12 CIS medals from national championship in Windsor

UOF G'S MEN'S track-and-field team won the 2010 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship title this month, and the women's team placed fourth. In all, the Gryphons captured 12 medals — four gold, three silver and five bronze — during the three-day competition at the University of Windsor.

On the men's side, fourth-year B.Sc. student Kyle Boorsma won gold medals in the 1,500 and 3,000

metres, and fourth-year BA student Dustin McCrank took top spot in the weight toss. A silver medal went to the men's 4x800 team.

Capturing bronze were second-year B.Comm. student Tim Hendry for the shot put and weight toss, second-year BA student Robert Jackson in the 1,500 metres, first-year B.Comm. student Jason Diston in the pentathlon and fourth-year BA student Guyson Kuruneru in the long jump.

On the women's side, fourth-year B.Sc. student Rachel Cliff won gold in the 3,000 metres and silver in the 1,500 metres.

A silver medal also went to fifth-year BAS student Sarah Peirce in the 60-metre sprint.

In addition, Gryphon head coach Dave Scott-Thomas was named the men's CIS Coach of the Year, and Diston and first-year B.Sc. student Genevieve Lalonde won "Rookie of the Year" honours.

at GUELPH

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STATS PROF NAMED CPES ASSOCIATE DEAN (ACADEMIC)

Prof. Gerarda Darlington, Mathematics and Statistics, has been appointed associate dean (academic) for the College of Physical and Engineering Science. Her one-year term will begin May 1. Darlington, who joined U of G in 2000, is a B.Sc. and M.Sc. statistics graduate of Guelph and a PhD graduate of the University of Waterloo.

'RUMOUR MILL' SET

President Alastair Summerlee and provost Maureen Mancuso host a "Rumour Mill" forum and budget presentation March 29 at noon in Room 103 of the University Centre. The forum is designed to separate fact from fiction when it comes to information circulating at U of G.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Steelworkers Local 4120 is calling for nominations for the Susanne Sprowl Community Service Award. The award honours the memory and dedication of Susanne Sprowl, a 20-year employee of the University. Anyone can nominate a member of Steelworkers Local 4120 for the \$500 award. The deadline for submissions is April 30. For eligibility requirements, call Ext. 58911 or send email to admin@uswa4120.ca.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR LEAVE FOR CHANGE EXTENDED

The application submission deadline for Leave for Change has been extended to March 31. Through the program, regular full-time U of G staff and faculty have an opportunity to use their vacation time to volunteer their knowledge and skills during short assignments in developing countries. U of G is sponsoring seven volunteers this year. For more information, visit www.uuiter.ca or call Linda Bellai in Human Resources at Ext. 56147.

PHILOSOPHY GOES PUBLIC

The Department of Philosophy is hosting a special all-day edition of its "Philosophy Goes Public" program April 10 starting at 9 a.m. in Room 384 of the U of G Library. Everyone is welcome to attend the event, which will feature a series of talks by MA students, with topics ranging from "Eco-Friendly Products: Moral Goodness Sold Separately" to "Plato and the Telepathic Philosopher Kings." For a complete schedule, visit www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy.

STUDENTS COLLECT PHONES FOR TORONTO ZOO PROGRAM

U of G students are collecting old cellphones for a Toronto Zoo program called ECO-Cell, which recycles phones to help save gorillas and their habitat in Africa. Phones contain a mineral that is mined in the gorilla rainforest, so recycling decreases the demand for further mining. The students are also collecting old BlackBerrys, PDAs, MP3 players, iPods, chargers, adaptors, pagers and other portable electronic devices. They can be deposited in the white ECO-Cell box located at the entrance to the Bullring.

OVC's Mini-Vet School Draws Capacity Crowd

Sold-out inaugural lecture series raises money for Global Vets program

BY ANDREW VOWLES

U OF G VETERINARY students working this summer in developing countries will benefit from a sold-out mini-vet school held for the first time this winter at the Ontario Veterinary College. The inaugural venture has also attracted "surprising" but welcome exposure for the college among prospective students and clients alike, including one local eight-year-old wannabe vet, says Prof. Andrew Peregrine, Pathobiology.

The mini-vet school, offering weekly lectures by OVC experts, sold out quickly. The series attracted 140 participants — including some from Oshawa and Orillia — who paid at least \$100 each to learn about such topics as emergency medicine, diagnostic imaging and animal athletes.

Co-organizer John Pegg, a second-year DVM student, says he had hoped to attract 60 students, "but we had that within three days and sold out every seat in Room 1714." About 30 people are on a waiting list for next year.

"They are eager for knowledge and information and glad to have the

opportunity to learn," says Pegg, who ran the series with Jordan Le Masurier and Meghan Waller, also in second year.

Proceeds from the series will help with the expenses for 21 students heading abroad this summer as part of OVC's Global Vets program to work on projects in Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia and South America.

Along with Le Masurier and Cory Todd, Pegg will travel to South Africa and Madagascar to work with small animals and wildlife. It's the first time Global Vets has reached Madagascar.

Another new destination this year is Egypt, where students will work with horses.

The mini-vet school also benefited the college, says Pegg. "It's a great way to showcase OVC to the greater community and increase awareness of what vets do."

That's echoed by Peregrine, one of three co-advisers for Global Vets and a guest lecturer in the series this semester.

"It surprised many of us how much interest there is outside the college. A lot of people are interested in what goes on at OVC but don't

have much access to the college."

Besides Peregrine, lecturers were Profs. Cate Dewey, Population Medicine; Jonathan LaMarre, Biomedical Sciences; Scott Weese and Robert Foster, Pathobiology; and Henry Stampfli and Stephanie Nykamp, Clinical Studies. Also on the roster was surgical resident Ameet Singh.

About 40 per cent of the participants were university students, and a third were high schoolers. The youngest student was Meghan Secord, 8, who has a mini-vet clinic set up at home in Puslinch and hopes to become a vet surgeon.

"Animals are cute, furry and interesting to learn facts about," says Secord, who understood most of the lectures but found the physiology difficult.

Her mom, Anne, a Guelph high school teacher, says this was her own first exposure to OVC, apart from College Royal. "It's an excellent opportunity to have a very brief look into what the vet school does."

Global Vets started 12 years ago with two students and now has up to 25 participants a year. It costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 to send a student abroad under the program.

From Gourmet to Grotesque

U of G food scientist's new book offers taste of the bizarre

BY DEIRDRE HEALEY

PUTREFIED SHARK, cheese infested with mites and a drink brewed from corn that is chewed before fermentation may not sound like an appetizing meal, but Prof. Massimo Marcone, Food Science, says these bizarre eatables are viewed as delicacies in certain parts of the world.

Marcone travelled the globe in search of the gourmet — and often grotesque — dishes that are highly sought-after by different cultures. His goal was to investigate the science behind their unique tastes.

Dubbed the Indiana Jones of food science, Marcone has captured his adventures in a new book, *Acquired Tastes: On the Trail of the World's Most Sought-After Delicacies*, published by Key Porter Books.

"Exotic foods are the hook that gets the readers' attention and the

vehicle I use to teach people about the science behind the foods they eat," he says.

Driven by his fascination for how delicacies are acquired, Marcone hiked into the Amazon jungle in search of a group of Brazilian Indians known to make a special drink called chicha. They produce it by chewing corn and then spitting the mush into a fermentation pot.

"This was a trip that required special government approval," he says. "I think I can safely say that I am the only food scientist who has ventured into the Amazon jungle to study what people eat and then analyze their diet."

The adventure didn't stop there. He trekked through China to study chon cha, the rarest and most bizarre luxury tea in the world. This exotic drink requires that the tea leaves be digested by night moth larvae and excreted before being brewed.

Marcone visited France and Germany to investigate highly sought-after cheeses with a unique taste attributed to a ripening process that involves mites poking holes in the surface. He found that the grey powder on French Mimolette cheese and German Milbenkäse cheese consists of mites dead and alive, plus their eggs, moulted skin and feces.

The food scientist also travelled to Italy, Norway and Iceland to study other rare, but perhaps less strange, foods such as saffron, truffles and putrefied shark.

"Exotic foods nourish the body as all foods do, but more importantly, they nourish the mind through the stories that come with them," he says. "Most foods we eat today have been stripped of their stories, and we have lost that connection with what we eat. I hope I can help reconnect people with the stories behind our food."

people

BOOK SHORTLISTED FOR PRIZE

Prof. Margot Irvine, Languages and Literatures, is one of five finalists for the prestigious Raymond Klibansky Prize given each year by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for a scholarly work written in French. Her book is titled *Pour suivre un époux: Les récits de voyages des couples au XIXe siècle*, published by Éditions Nota Bene.

STUDENT TO ATTEND WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS IN TURKEY

First-year BA student Brooke Longhurst has been selected as a Canadian delegate to the 2010 World Youth Congress to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, this summer. The conference brings together youth from around the globe who have demonstrated commitment to the Millennium Development Goals to share, innovate and work toward a sustainable future and the eradication of poverty.

ART PROFS EXHIBIT WORKS

An exhibition of new paintings by Prof. Monica Tap, Fine Art and Music, runs from April 10 to May 1 at Wynick/Tuck Gallery in Toronto. Profs. Sandra Rechico and Nestor Kruger are part of a group exhibition called "Superviscous: Works in Glass" at Toronto's Onsite at OCAD gallery until May 28. Photos from Prof. Susan Dobson's series "Natural Law" are part of a group exhibition at the McIntosh Gallery in London, Ont., until April 24. Prof. Christian Giroux exhibited a new work called "50 Light Fixtures From Home Depot" at Akademie der Künste in Berlin in February as part of a group show. It also appeared at Toronto's Mercer Union.

RETIREMENT RECEPTIONS SET

A reception will be held April 7 for Denna Benn, director of animal-care services, who is retiring after more than 30 years at U of G. It runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the University Centre. RSVP by March 29 to Ext. 52534 or 54680 or by email to mgmctagg@uoguelph.ca or evclnpy@uoguelph.ca.

Laura Mann of the CBS dean's office, who is retiring after more than 28 years at the University, will be honoured at a reception April 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the science complex atrium. RSVP by April 16 to Toni Pellizzari at tonip@uoguelph.ca or Ext. 53343.

A reception will be held May 5 for Dawn Larson of the CBS dean's office, who is retiring after more than 21 years at U of G. It runs from 3 to 5 p.m. in the University Club. RSVP by April 23 to Toni Pellizzari at tonip@uoguelph.ca or Ext. 53343.

IN MEMORIAM

Bill McCluskey, a staff member in the Department of Chemistry since 1968, died March 7 at age 59. He is survived by three stepisters and a stepbrother. A tree will be planted in his memory at the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest.

THE FINAL ISSUE OF *At GUELPH* WILL APPEAR APRIL 7.

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These Gardens Are for the Birds ... and for the Bees

Students to present designs for pollinator gardens

BY ANDREW VOWLES

ATRACT BUGS, including stinging insects, to your garden? Karen McKeown knows many homeowners would rather bar bees and related creatures from their property. But, along with U of G colleagues, the city's healthy-landscapes technician will help start two demonstration gardens this year to show more residents how and why to make their gardens pollinator-friendly.

Those gardens will draw on designs by two Guelph landscape architecture students. Master's student Kendra Labrosse and undergraduate Patricia Gooch will present their plans during a pollination symposium being held this week by Pollination Guelph, a local group whose board includes several U of G researchers.

Referring to declining numbers of bees, butterflies, birds and other creatures that pollinate not just garden flowers but also fruits and vegetables, McKeown says: "We're losing a lot of pollinators because of habitat loss."

Showing homeowners how they can help reverse those losses is the purpose of the pollinator gardens planned for two Guelph neighbourhoods this summer.

The gardens will be planted around city well houses. Built to blend into the neighbourhood, these houses are occupied not by people but by municipal water-pumping equipment. There are about a dozen well houses in town, with more located on the city outskirts.

Using site plans from the city and plant lists provided by Prof. Karen Landman, Environmental Design and Rural Development, the U of G students designed both gardens.

For one pumping station near Exhibition Park, they've suggested flowering shrubs — including viburnum, dogwood and rugosa rose — as well as perennials such as purple

coneflower, wild oats, bee balm and anemone. Another site west of the Hanlon Expressway would boast shrubs, perennials and such plants as lavender and sage.

Both gardens will be planted and maintained by Pollination Guelph. The group also plans to begin a pollinator meadow this year on the former Eastview landfill site and a new garden at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming in the Arboretum.

Besides attracting pollinators, these spaces are intended to test ideas for low-irrigation, pesticide-free gardening that looks good.

"We're trying to create functional but esthetic landscapes," says Landman, education director with Pollination Guelph. "What we're trying to do is demonstrate what that looks like."

Adds Gooch: "They're to show people that pollinators have a function and can be easily incorporated into a residential site."

Referring to the students' designs, McKeown, a U of G horticulture graduate, says: "They look good. I'm excited we're going to turn these nice small residential yards into pollinator habitat. It's good to show the neighbours how easy it is to turn a grass lawn into something good for pollinators."

"Pollination Plantings Great and Small" is the theme of this year's pollination symposium March 27 at 9 a.m. at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph. The event is a fundraiser for Pollination Guelph and the Eastview Pollinator Park.

Besides Labrosse and Gooch, speakers will include Sean Fox of the Arboretum, landscape architecture student Ana Cruceru and retired environmental sciences professor Peter Kevan, scientific director of the Canadian Pollination Initiative.

Cost of the symposium is \$35. Register at pollinationguelph@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.pollinationguelph.ca.

U of G Political Scientist Part of Observer Team in Ukraine

Yanukovich may not turn out to be as bad as his opponents expect, says prof

BY TERESA PITMAN

MEMBERS of the Ukrainian-Canadian community naturally have a deep interest in the politics of their homeland, but Prof. Fred Eidlin, Political Science, believes the changes that have been going on in Ukraine are of broader interest. Since the former Soviet Union was dismantled, Ukraine and other countries have been working towards democracy, and following their successes and challenges can be instructive for the rest of the world, he says.

Eidlin has watched this struggle from up close. He has visited Ukraine frequently, starting in Soviet times. Last month, he was part of a 200-strong Canadian observer team that monitored the second round of the Ukrainian presidential election. This was his second stint as an observer in Ukraine. In 2004, he participated in a 500-member Canadian mission that monitored a third round of the country's presidential election.

There had been massive fraud during the second round, and people had taken to the streets in protest, says Eidlin. The Ukrainian Supreme Court declared the election invalid and ordered a third round. Canada and several other countries sent observers to help the Ukrainians ensure it was honest.

"This was the Orange Revolution, thought at the time to be a triumph of democracy and a rejection of a corrupt regime and of Russian influence," he says. "There were rock bands and huge crowds dancing and rejoicing."

The villain of the piece, Viktor Yanukovich, was defeated by Viktor Yushchenko and disgraced.

But the Orange Revolution turned out to be a disappointment, says Eidlin.

"The heroes of the revolution fell into a pattern of petty squabbling, the government was paralyzed, and the economy worsened. Just over a

year after the triumph of December 2004, parliamentary elections gave Yanukovich the largest number of seats and he became prime minister for a year and a half."

By the time of the 2010 election, Yushchenko was isolated in a struggle not only against Yanukovich and his party but also with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and her supporters, says Eidlin. Yushchenko got only five per cent of the vote in the first round of the election, and the second round was a contest between Yanukovich and Tymoshenko.

That's when the Canadian observers entered the picture. After receiving training in Ottawa and Ukraine, they were assigned to various regions of the Eastern European country.

"To be good observers, we needed to be aware of the potential problems and the election laws," says Eidlin.

During his assignment, he met and talked with members of the various political parties, municipal leaders and ordinary people with an interest in politics.

"I had the impression that those involved in conducting the election were taking their roles very seriously," he says. "They were very much aware that the world was watching and wanted to show that their country was now a mature democracy."

This time, the winner was Yanukovich. Although the election was generally recognized as free and fair, Tymoshenko alleged that there had been massive fraud and refused to accept the legitimacy of Yanukovich's victory. She took her case to court, but when the court refused to consider what she called crucial evidence, she withdrew her case and declared the court corrupt.

"Many people didn't like either candidate," says Eidlin. "Ukraine offers voters the option of voting for 'none of the above,' and more than five per cent did just that."

He notes that every election in

the recent past has shown a deep divide between the western and central parts of Ukraine, more oriented towards Europe, and the eastern and southern regions, which are more connected with Russia. This deadlock has prevented the country from moving forward on many important issues, he says.

"In my opinion, the Orange Revolution raised expectations much too high. It was inevitable that people would become disillusioned. Yushchenko and Tymoshenko were no revolutionaries — they were part of the old system — and there was really nothing to drive fundamental change."

Still, Eidlin is optimistic about Ukraine's future. "Yanukovich may not turn out to be as bad as his opponents expect. He has changed, and so has Ukraine. Although the Orange Revolution didn't work miracles, it did make the political environment significantly more democratic. The people are now a central factor in Ukrainian politics."

He adds that Yanukovich "is well aware that he needs popular support to govern effectively and stay in power. And he seems to have learned a lot about democratic politics during the past five years. He understands the need to move forward decisively on the problems that have been plaguing Ukraine. He also understands the need to unite the country, and he knows he has to broaden and deepen his electoral base in those parts of Ukraine that voted overwhelmingly for his opponents."

For the U of G political scientist, the election results demonstrate Ukraine's real development towards democracy.

"One of my central research interests is the transition of countries that belonged to the former Soviet Union. Each time I visit these countries, I make new contacts, find sources and get new perspectives. Having the opportunity to observe things first-hand is invaluable."

Toys: The Next Generation

Students to unveil prototypes of new toys designed to promote child development

BY TERESA PITMAN

AGOOD TOY keeps the baby happy while you're throwing dinner together or calms your toddler when he or she is fed up with being in a car seat. But a really good toy, says Prof. Susan Chuang, Family Relations and Applied Nutrition, helps promote your child's development.

With that in mind, she created a major project for her second-year class studying infant development: researching, designing and building a prototype for a new toy.

"The creativity level is pretty phenomenal," says Chuang. "This is our

fourth time doing this, and in the past years, no two toys have been the same."

This year's toys will be introduced to the world at "The Next Generation of Toys" March 31 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the University Centre courtyard. The U of G Bookstore is sponsoring the event and providing light refreshments.

"There will be 70 to 80 new toys on display," says Chuang. "It's a great opportunity for parents to come out with their kids and see what the students have designed. They'll learn a lot. The students really know what's developmentally appropriate and can talk to parents

about the features they should look for when buying toys."

Each toy has to be based on developmental themes taught in Chuang's course, and the students work in groups of no more than four to form a company, research toy design and create a brand-new item for babies to play with.

Each year, the students present their products in class seminars before unveiling them at the public event.

"The students take this challenge very seriously," says Chuang. "I encourage everyone to come out and see what they've accomplished. You'll be amazed."

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Food, Fuel and More

Defying naysayers, SES prof says 'think local' means using Ontario bounty to make food, fuel and other products

BY ANDREW VOWLES

ENVIRONMENTAL sciences professor Rob Nicol knows his idea is heresy in some quarters. Grow food not only to feed the world but also to make fuels, chemicals and other products? Isn't that the kind of practice that can give the bioeconomy a bad name?

You can almost hear him shaking his head all the way along the phone line to U of G's Ridgetown Campus, where he's been a faculty member in the School of Environmental Sciences (SES) since 2007.

Yes, many people frown on the idea of diverting food crops for non-food uses, says Nicol. But he believes the argument is more nuanced than that. If anything, he says his idea meshes with the "think local" mantra favoured by the growing green-conscious movement.

Here in this part of the world, including Ridgetown — the "tropics of Canada," he says — there's plenty to go around. That was the point of a talk he gave last week in Guelph during a Café Scientifique event hosted by SES. "Yes, it's fine in southern Ontario," he says. "We've got lots of crops and a relatively small population."

He knows that's not the case in other parts of the world, but Nicol says that picture is often complicated by bigger political and food-distribution issues. Many countries have used land to grow commodities not to feed their own population but to earn export dollars. "You can't blame biofuels for countries that don't have enough food."

His decentralized model relies on local sources of food and feedstocks. Think of grain growers who also raise pigs. How many of those farmers ship away their grain to market,



Prof. Rob Nicol, Environmental Sciences, studies ways to harness crops to feed us and our bioeconomy.

PHOTO BY REBECCA KENDALL

only to buy grain back from that market to feed their livestock? Nicol advocates growing crops for food, making livestock feed and making biofuel for your tractor — all while cutting economic and environmental costs of shipping goods, including fuel for transportation.

Figuring out how to make the model work is where researchers like Nicol come in.

In one project, he's working with students to compare life-cycle emissions of biodiesel and petroleum diesel. The former burns cleaner, with lower emissions of most contaminants, he says.

In another project, he's looking at using microbes to perform anaerobic digestion of biomass, yielding biodiesel, methane or precursors for other green products. Use waste biomass that way and you could cut down on the need for landfill, a growing issue for larger centres such as Toronto that have to truck their wastes elsewhere.

Along with Guelph engineering professor Dave Lubitz, Nicol has a graduate student looking at using algae to clean up waste water and generate feedstocks for the lipid-to-biodiesel process. Another student at Ridgetown wants to use biodiesel

waste itself to make chemical products.

Those projects involve more microbiology and lab techniques than the plant studies on Nicol's résumé. Before arriving at Ridgetown, he had done a PhD in plant science at the University of Western Ontario, following earlier degrees in biology and environmental studies at the universities of Waterloo and Ottawa.

After working for a Boston biotech company and spending a year teaching at Western, he came to Ridgetown expecting to work in traditional plant biology. But he found researchers busy with the use of crops for bioenergy, biomass and chemicals.

"I decided to get involved because it seemed interesting," he says, pointing to the larger goal of weaning ourselves from fossil fuels. "The more we do now, the better off we'll be in the future."

Consider the billions of dollars we spend on fuel alone. "If we could capture a fraction here and leave it

here, we'd all be doing a lot better. Infrastructure stimulus funding is fine, but if we could capture some of this money flowing elsewhere for our energy needs, it would be hugely transformative. It's a big dream for me."

Along with other Ridgetown faculty and researchers in local industry and government, Nicol belongs to the Centre for Agricultural Renewable Energy and Sustainability. Established in 2008, it conducts research, teaching, technology transfer and rural development in bioenergy and the bioeconomy.

Late last year, the centre commissioned a farm-scale biodiesel demonstration plant at Ridgetown to test ideas for agricultural products. The project was funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program, which is delivered in Ontario by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.

Besides government and University funding, support for the project came from the Southwestern Ontario Bioproducts Innovation Network, an industry group.

That test plant will allow researchers to try out new uses for old and overlooked waste products. Imagine using hemp oil or recycled restaurant grease to make biodiesel — ideas that are already being tried on the market. How about using crops, including grasses, to make building materials for construction or greenhouse companies?

Those kinds of ideas could even benefit researchers like Nicol. He already gets decent mileage on his diesel Jetta during his hour's drive between Ridgetown and his London home, but he figures he and his two carpooling partners could do better.

"My hope is to be filling up on locally produced biodiesel that came from a very short distance," says Nicol, a self-described foodie who also aims to buy local at the grocery store.

At Ridgetown, he teaches in the bioresource management degree and environmental management diploma programs, and is now developing a renewable energy course.

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KAREN ATKINSON

Awards clerk in Student Financial Services, joined U of G in 1992

Karen Atkinson has been singing with the Overtones, a Guelph women's barbershop chorus, for six years and is currently the group's president.

"We have a full chorus of about 40 women as well as smaller groups and quartets," she says.

Twice a year, the Overtones compete against other women's barbershop groups. "In the spring, we compete in our area, and in the fall, we compete at the international championships," she says. "Last year, I competed at the area level for the first time as part of a quartet, and I really enjoyed that experience."

Competitions have taken her and the other Overtones to locations such as northern Ontario, New Brunswick and Rhode Island.

They also perform at seniors' homes, the Hillside Festival, annual meetings, anniversary parties, weddings and corporate events throughout the year. In addition, the group puts on an annual show and is planning one for December.

"We're always looking for new members," says Atkinson, "and we're looking for younger women to take part. You're never too young to sing. Next year, we're doing a joint concert with the Guelph Youth Singers, and I hope that will give more people a chance to hear and enjoy barbershop."



Karen Atkinson

so the land around it pays for the salaries of the staff. I also helped start a school for blind girls, and there are now about 80 girls enrolled."

Before the school opened, there were no schools that accepted blind girls, and their parents were reluctant to send them to regular schools, he says.

Mittal's new goal is to help provide better housing for the poor in India and other places. "Too many people in the world have no housing or live under extremely bad conditions," he says.

When he's not working to help others, he tends towards reflective pursuits. "I am very interested in religions of the world and spend a lot of time studying them. I've read all the religious books, including the Bible and the Koran, and many other books about religion and culture. I also read travel and adventure books — mostly non-fiction."

And to reduce his stress levels, Mittal meditates and does yoga. "Managing stress is important for health," he says, "and that's what yoga helps me do."

CHRISTIAN MCFARLANE

Fourth-year biological sciences student

During last month's winter break, Christian McFarlane co-led a team of 20 U of G students on a Habitat for Humanity project in Biloxi, Miss. It was the second year in a row that he'd made the trip south.

"People don't realize how hard Mississippi was hit by hurricane Katrina," he says. "When you see the devastation with your own eyes, you want to help out."

Six groups totalling 120 students participated in this year's building projects. As a team leader, McFarlane organized the paperwork for his group, planned the 20-hour drive to Mississippi and did fundraising.

"The trip was absolutely amazing," he says. "We gained a real sense of perspective on the damage that has occurred on the Gulf Coast. There's been a ton of progress, but there's still a lot left to do. We met fantastic people who have dedicated their lives to this relief effort, and it really touched us all to know the love and care that people are giving to families who have been devastated by this tragedy."

The campus group is also involved with Habitat for Humanity Wellington County and takes part in area building projects on weekends.

McFarlane says donations are always welcome and can be made in Room 227 of the University Centre or to the Wellington group at www.habitatwellington.on.ca.



Christian McFarlane

GAURI MITTAL

Faculty member in the School of Engineering since 1981

When Prof. Gauri Mittal came to Canada from India, one of his main goals was to do a lot of travelling.

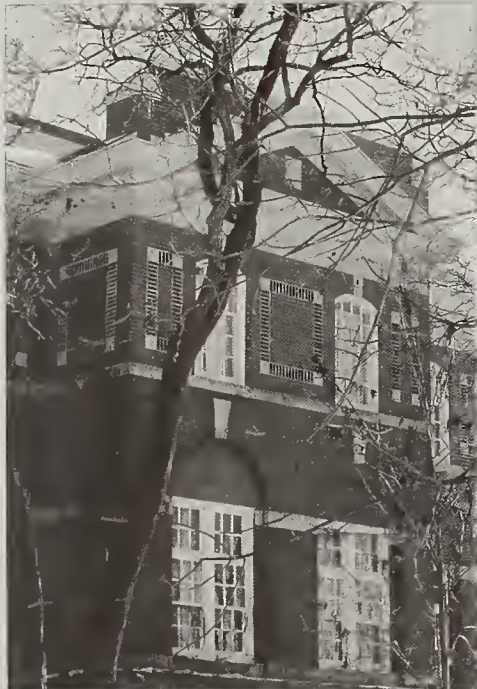
"I have accomplished that," he says. "I've been to many countries, and I go to Japan, Thailand and India every year."

Now his goal is not just to experience the culture and foods of these countries but also to help where he can, particularly when he sees people living in poverty.

"I help with research and education, and I do charity work," says Mittal. "I started a hospital in India with two doctors and two nurses. We built it on a large property,



Gauri Mittal



Where Are You Now?

If you can identify where this photo was taken, you will have your name entered in a draw to be held this month for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. Anyone who submits the right answer by March 26 at 4:45 p.m. is eligible for the draw. Send your response to r.kendall@exec.uoguelph.ca or call Ext. 56039. The following people correctly reported that the March 10 photo was of Day Hall: Toni Pellizzari, Sandra Campbell, Darlene Wiltsie, Colleen O'Brien, Fran Kitchen, Ann Barr, Marlene Eberhardt, Brian Smith, Bill Clair, Danny Martin and Gerrit Bos.

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Furnished four-bedroom house in west end of Guelph, recently renovated, private yard, deck and barbecue, available June to August, \$1,800 a month inclusive, Jamie, 519-767-5469 or javander@uoguelph.ca.

Two-bedroom lakefront cottage on Ahmic Lake in Parry Sound area, has separate two-bedroom guest cottage, \$1,200 a week or \$950 a week for two weeks, 519-824-1773 or bgreen@rlproyalcity.com.

Two-bedroom Tobermory cottage, bunkie sleeps two more, available June to October, \$1,100 weekly from July and August, \$700 weekly in

off-season, weekend rates available, more details at <http://web.mac.com/jstewartguelph/Site/Welcome.html>, email to jstobermory@me.com.

Three-bedroom stone house in St. George's Park/Stuart Street area, laundry, parking, preferably no pets, non-smokers, available April/May, \$1,700 a month plus utilities, 519-837-2252 or hkedra@rogers.com.

Two-bedroom condo apartment for sale or lease in downtown London, Ont., mature quiet building. If renting, cost is \$1,150 a month, no smoking, prefer no pets, condo fee/lease includes utilities, parking for one vehicle, 519-843-3470 or nudds.family@sympatico.ca.

Three-bedroom furnished house close to downtown, three baths, finished basement with bath and separate entrance, available from summer 2010 to summer 2011 (flexible), manand@uoguelph.ca or cbauch@uoguelph.ca.

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EVENTS

ARBORETUM

Naturalist Chris Earley leads a workshop on butterflies April 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a tour slated for May 8 at 6:30 a.m. Cost is \$95. On April 23, he discusses warblers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. Registration and payment are due April 2 and 9, respectively. Call Ext. 52358.

Photographer Sylvia Galbraith leads a hands-on field trip focusing on night and low-light photography April 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. (rain date April 25). Cost is \$55. Registration deadline is April 9.

CONCERTS

The Thursday at Noon concert series continues March 25 with the Top Pocket Jazz Quartet and April 1 and 8 with student soloists. Concerts are at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

Andrew Scott leads the U of G Jazz Ensemble March 25 at 8 p.m. at Manhattans Pizza Bistro and Jazz Club. Cover charge is \$2.

The U of G Concert Winds led by John Goddard present "The British Are Coming to Broadway" March 26 at 8 p.m. at Harcourt United Church. Tickets are \$10 general, \$5 for students and seniors.

Henry Janzen conducts the U of G Chamber Ensembles March 28 at 3 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

The U of G Contemporary Music Ensemble led by Joe Sorbara performs March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

LECTURES

The TransCanada Institute lecture series presents Prof. Jade Ferguson, English and Theatre Studies, discussing "From Dixie With Love: Main Street and Lynching Photography" March 25 at 4:30 p.m. at 9 University Ave. E.

The Kenneth Hammond Lectures on Environment, Energy and Resources feature a keynote talk by Blair Feltmate of the University of Waterloo March 26 at 7 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. His topic is "Bringing Industry Sectors on Board to Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Canadian Electricity Association." On March 27, a symposium and panel discussion will be held at Guelph City Hall. Registration for the symposium is required at hls@uoguelph.ca.

OAC's 2010 Superintendent-in-Residence Lecture presents Jeff Carlson, superintendent of the Vineyard Golf Club in Martha's Vineyard, Mass., March 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cutten Club. His topic is "The Vineyard Golf Club: Seven Years of Organic Management."

The School of Languages and Literatures lecture series continues April 1 with Eric Bertram, deputy director for Brazil and the Southern Cone with Foreign Affairs Canada, discussing the Americas at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 233.

ASTRA hosts Jennifer Willet of the University of Windsor discussing "INCUBATOR: Artistic Propositions Towards New Laboratory Ecologies" April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the science complex atrium. On April 7, Prof. John Cranfield, Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, presents "Healthy, Wealthy and Tall(er): What Heights Tell Us About the Well-Being of Canadians" at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 317.

NOTICES

President Alastair Summerlee and provost Maureen Mancuso host a "Rumour Mill" forum and budget presentation March 29 at noon in UC 103.

The Stress Management and High Performance Clinic presents "Stress Less for Tests," a two-session program that runs April 5 and 7 at 5:30 p.m. in UC 335. For more information, pick up a pamphlet at the Information Desk on UC Level 1, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers or leave a message at Ext. 52662.

The Department of Pathobiology hosts a demonstration of FCS Express Version 3, a software program for flow cytometry data analysis, April 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Pathobiology 2152. To book a time, send email to bmbey@uoguelph.ca.

SEMINARS

The Department of Plant Agriculture seminar series continues March 24 with Prof. Ian Tetlow, Molecular and Cellular Biology, explaining "Control and Regulation of Storage Starch Biosynthesis in Plants" and March 31 with Rowan Sage of the University of Toronto on "Exploiting C4 Photosynthesis to Enhance

Food and Fuel Production." The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in Thornbrough 1307. On April 5, the department hosts a special seminar with Roy Steiner, deputy director of the global development program for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He will outline the agricultural projects the foundation has funded in developing nations at 3:30 p.m. in MacNaughton 113.

Next up in the Department of Chemistry seminar series is Canada-U.S. visiting Fulbright chair Greg Zimmerman of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania discussing "Using Electrical Conductance (an Old Trick) to Probe Aqueous Solutions at Extreme Conditions" March 25 at 10:45 a.m. in science complex 1511.

The Department of Pathobiology seminar series continues March 26 with Prof. Allan King, Biomedical Sciences, presenting "Sex: Things You Didn't Learn in Sex Ed" and April 9 with Prof. Ian Barker, director of the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre. The seminars begin at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

"Assessing Discrimination in Parole Release" is the topic of Stephane Mechoulam of Dalhousie University in the Department of Economics seminar series March 26. On April 9, Talan Iscan of Dalhousie examines "The Rise of the Service Employment." The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 306.

Next up in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology's plant biology seminar series March 29 is research associate Mahbuba Siddiqua discussing "Vitis CBF1 and CBF4 Have a Role in Abiotic and Biotic Stress Tolerance" at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

The Department of Integrative Biology presents Gustav Paulay of the University of Florida explaining "Diversity and Diversification of Reef Invertebrates: Results From Large-Scale Surveys and Sequencing" March 30 at 3:30 p.m. in science complex 2315.

The Department of Physics presents Nancy Forde of Simon Fraser University discussing "Using Optical Forces to Probe Mechanical Response From Single Molecules to Biomaterials" March 30. On April 6, the topic is "Are Photons Stranger Than People Thought?" with

Aephraim Steinberg of the University of Toronto. The seminars begin at 4 p.m. in MacNaughton 101.

Prof. Trevor DeVries of U of G's Kemptville Campus is guest speaker in the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare's animal behaviour and welfare seminar series March 31 at 4 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 141. He will discuss "Not Just What Dairy Cattle Are Given to Eat, But How They Eat It."

"Regulation of Receptor Traffic by Rab GTPases" is the focus of Suzanne Pfeffer of the Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology's distinguished speaker series April 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Animal Science and Nutrition 156.

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for the following Teaching Support Services events can be found at www.tss.uoguelph.ca.

The "Women in Academe" lunchtime discussion series continues March 30 with "Balancing Work and Family in the Academic Environment — Is It Them or Is It Me?" Guest facilitator is Linda Hawkins, executive director of the Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being.

TSS is hosting a showcase called "Mapping the Curriculum" March 31. It will focus on cutting-edge technologies designed to help faculty improve their curriculum.

TSS's "Learning Circle" discussion groups continue with "Community Engaged Teaching and Learning" April 1, "Teaching on the Edge" April 6 and "Engaging in Education Research" April 7.

THEATRE

The School of English and Theatre Studies presents an adaptation of *RUR (Rossum's Universal Robots)* by Czech playwright Karel Capek. Performances run until March 27 at 8 p.m. in the George Luscombe Theatre. Tickets are \$8 and \$10 and are available in Massey 102, by calling Ext. 53147 or at the door.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Andr  e McCracken, Integrative Biology, is March 26 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is

"The Pathways of Introduction of Invasive *Cabomba caroliniana* in Canada." The adviser is Prof. Brian Husband.

The final examination of Hakeem Shittu, a PhD candidate in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, is March 29 at 1 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Plant-Endophyte Interplay Protects Tomato Against a Virulent *Verticillium dahliae*." The adviser is Prof. Jane Robb.

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate John Hollingshead, Molecular Biology, is March 29 at 9 a.m. in science complex 1511. The thesis is "The Role of 14-3-3 Proteins in Starch Biosynthesis Within Wheat Endosperm." The adviser is Prof. Mike Emes.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Guelph Food Bank's annual spring food drive runs until April 11. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at 100 Crime St.

A social to benefit the Guelph-Wellington Alzheimer Society runs March 27 at 8 p.m. at the Bullring. For ticket information, call 519-822-0973 or send email to carcerfz@sympatico.ca.

The Guelph Historical Society hosts a talk by Elysia De Laurentis of the Wellington County Museum and Archives April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Her topic is "Change and Continuity in Local Architecture: The Wellington County Museum and Archives Gordon Couling Collection."

The annual National Service Dogs Easter egg hunt for dogs is April 2 at 11 a.m. at Riverside Park. Registration is \$20 per family and begins at 10 a.m. For registration and pledge forms, visit www.nsd.on.ca.

"The Bumpy Road to Gold" is the theme when the Royal City Ambassadors perform March 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the River Run Centre. For tickets, call 519-763-3000 or visit www.riverrun.ca.

The Elora Centre for the Arts is holding a volunteer meet-and-greet event April 8 from 3 to 6 p.m. to outline the 2010 season and the volunteer opportunities available at the centre. If you wish to attend, RSVP by March 30 to 519-846-9698 or volunteer@eloracentreforthearts.ca.



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U of G's most prestigious graduate award will enable Melanie Wills to study cell signalling and cancer.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

'It Lights a Fire Under You'

Brock Doctoral Scholarship recognizes potential of grad student's research

BY ANDREW VOWLES

FOR PHD STUDENT Melanie Wills, science is woven into her DNA. Take the time she helped her dad and uncle — both among a long line of engineers and scientists on her paternal side — to free a car stuck at the bottom of a hill. While the men prepared to push, she slipped behind the wheel.

"As I was gearing up for the run, my dad said: 'Remember, the coefficient of static friction is higher than the coefficient of dynamic friction.'"

Smiling years later at the recollection, Wills translates. "That meant: 'Don't spin the tires.'" Did it work? Another smile: "On the first try."

If her doctorate is a new hill to climb, she's just gotten some extra traction. Wills has received U of G's most prestigious graduate award to pursue research in cell signalling and cancer, interests she developed during undergraduate lab studies with

Prof. Nina Jones, Molecular and Cellular Biology, now her PhD supervisor.

The Brock Doctoral Scholarship — worth up to \$120,000 over four years — is awarded to an entering doctoral student considered outstanding in his or her field and able to lead other students in their own PhD programs.

The award is funded from a \$10-million endowment donated to U of G by Bill and Anne Brock. Bill Brock is a 1958 graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and a former chair of Board of Governors and the Board of Trustees.

"The Brock scholarship recognizes the potential of this research," says Wills. "It lights a fire under you and keeps you going."

Jones says her student brings both research and communication strengths to her lab.

"She is an absolutely outstanding individual, committed to her aca-

demic and extracurricular pursuits, and directing a cutting-edge research project with her own ideas, curiosity and integrity."

They study how cells communicate through so-called Shc proteins. Within that family, Wills is looking at the ShcD protein that enables communication between brain cells and between skeletal muscle cells.

That molecule was found by Jones, then a post-doc, and other scientists at Toronto's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. It's involved in relaying signals allowing the brain and skeletal muscles to function.

"Not much is known about it," says Wills, who hopes to learn more about how and why the protein works and what happens when it malfunctions.

Shc proteins are involved in cell development and maturation, including determining when cells con-

Continued on page 6

U of G Awarded Two New CRCs

Federal government also renews three existing chairs

BY LORI BONA HUNT

GUELPH will receive \$4.3 million over the next seven years through two new prestigious Canada Research Chairs and the renewal of three others.

Prof. Carl Svensson, Physics, was named a Tier 1 Chair in Gamma-Ray Spectroscopy and Rare Isotopes. Tier 1 chairs receive \$200,000 annually for seven years and are considered to be world leaders in their field.

Prof. Rene Kirkegaard, Economics, was named a Tier 2 chair in Risk Management and Regulation. Tier 2 chairs receive \$100,000 a year for five years and are recognized as scholars with potential to become world leaders in their field.

"Research at U of G will be entering new dimensions with the addition of these two prestigious chairs," says Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research). "Guelph scientists will be examining unexplored frontiers — in accelerated radioactive ion-beam science and risk management and regulation — and positioning Guelph as a leader in providing both technology and knowledge in these fields."

Svensson's research is expected

to help reveal crucial information about the structure of atomic nuclei. He is leading an international group of scientists who are developing a new instrument called GRIFFIN (Gamma-Ray Infrastructure for Fundamental Investigations of Nuclei) at TRIUMF, Canada's world-leading nuclear and particle physics laboratory in Vancouver. There, Svensson also leads research with the TIGRESS detector designed for experiments with accelerated radioactive isotope beams.

"The combination of the TIGRESS and GRIFFIN detectors will provide Canadian scientists with unrivalled opportunities to perform gamma-ray spectroscopy research with both low-energy and accelerated beams of rare isotopes," he says.

Research with these instruments will deepen understanding of forces that hold atomic nuclei together and processes by which stars produce chemical elements, adds Svensson.

"It will also attract leading scientists from around the world to perform their research in Canada."

Kirkegaard, who joined U of G this year from Brock University, studies the growing significance of

Continued on page 6

That's a Wrap!

Publishing enters new era at University of Guelph

BY BARBARA CHANCE

WHAT a difference a quarter-century makes. Twenty-five years ago, when I joined the staff of what was then a weekly publication called the *News Bulletin*, we wrote and edited our stories on "dumb" terminals, printed them off on a big noisy dot matrix printer and handed them to our typesetter, who typed them all over again into her machine.

On production days, our graphic artist would cut and paste strips of copy onto layout pages, cut rubrics for photos and screens, create headlines on a phototypesetter, size photos with a ruler and wheel, and painstakingly paste on word and line corrections. Meanwhile, several of us would be feverishly proofreading and making last-minute changes.

When the final crooked headline had been straightened and the last

mysteriously missing period pasted on, we'd put the pages in a wooden carrying case, and our then director, Doug Waterston, would lug it over to the campus police station, where it would be picked up later by our printer.

In the years since then, there have been many harrowing production days, but the sizing wheel and wooden carrying case are long gone, and the only cutting and pasting I've done lately is on my computer to transfer the *At Guelph* PDF file to the printer's FTP site.

Sometimes in the midst of shipping the paper off with just the click of a mouse, I've had flashback memories of the lengths I used to go to at times to physically get the paper to the printer. Like the time I drove to Grimsby at 11 p.m. with only a fuzzy idea of where I was going, my gas

Continued on page 2

This is the last issue of *At Guelph*.

We invite you to read campus news and features online through the U of G home page beginning April 12.

Coming events must now be submitted online at www.uoguelph.ca/events/addevent.

Send story ideas, news and "people" items, letters to the editor, obituaries and other information to cpa@uoguelph.ca.

Senators Hear Presentation on Preliminary Budget

AT ITS MARCH 29 meeting, Senate received a presentation on the preliminary 2010/11 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities budget and the integrated plan that will go to Board of Governors April 14 (see story below). Comments from Senate will be provided to the board for its consideration.

In other business, associate vice-president (academic) Serge Desmarais, chair of the working group charged with reviewing U of G's secondary areas of study, provided a preliminary report on draft recommendations, including a recommendation that minors be retained in programs but with a more clearly defined structure and purpose. A final report will go to Senate at its May 31 meeting.

Senators voted to dissolve the Faculty of Environ-

mental Sciences (FES) as an academic administrative unit. The Ontario Agricultural College assumed responsibility for FES in 2006, and when the School of Environmental Sciences was created in 2009, FES underwent further reorganization. With OAC now expanding its activities in environmental sciences, the administrative structure of FES is no longer required.

There is no impact to the existing B.Sc.(Env.) program, and activities formerly sponsored by FES, such as the Hammond Lectures and Café Scientifique, will continue. B.Sc.(Env.) student senator Marena Brinkhurst reported that students support the move.

Senators also voted to refer proposed revisions to Senate bylaws back to the Bylaws and Membership Committee for further consideration and consultation.

Budget Heads to B of G

Preliminary MTCU budget includes changes, savings as part of multi-year plan

BY LORI BONA HUNT

U OF G WILL PRESENT its preliminary 2010/2011 Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities budget to Board of Governors April 14. The budget includes the changes and cost savings that were made as part of the University's plan to reduce its structural deficit. This is Year 3 of the four-year plan.

"Our goal was to establish long-term fiscal balance and stability," says John Miles, assistant vice-president (finance). He and Prof. Maureen Mancuso, provost and vice-president (academic), gave a budget presentation last week at Senate. Mancuso also made a presentation at the March 29 "Rumour Mill."

The multi-year plan, initiated in 2008/09, aimed to reduce U of G's structural deficit by finding \$46.2 million in cost savings/net revenues by 2011/12. This year, departments

and units were required to find savings of \$16.2 million.

"About 89 per cent of the \$46 million has been either identified or implemented," says Miles. "That's a significant achievement."

In total, the 2010/11 budget includes \$32.5 million in savings and incremental revenues, including the multi-year plan reductions, tuition, money from an increase in student enrolment and changes in government grants. This is offset by \$27.5 million in costs and investments, including salaries and benefits and critical expenditures such as utilities and infrastructure, including information technology.

"That represents new revenues/savings of \$5 million to reduce the structural deficit," says Miles.

The budget also includes assumptions about enrolment and tuition, namely that Guelph will hold the current undergraduate intake target to 4,500 new students and will

increase student enrolment in targeted areas such as graduate studies and engineering, and that the current provincial tuition framework will remain intact. It's also assumed that the government won't be providing additional funds for capital projects.

"We will continue to invest strategically, attract and retain students, sustain program quality and maintain critical infrastructures," he says.

Guelph is also building a contingency fund to go toward an anticipated "wind-up" pension payment scheduled for August 2010. The province requires that businesses (including universities) "prove" every three years that they have the financial means to meet pension requirements if they were to close. Based on current estimates, Guelph will need to find some \$280 million to make up the difference between assets and liabilities in the pension fund, says Miles.

A Piece of U of G History

Continued from page 1

tank hovering on empty and my befuddled cat along for the ride.

Considering how quickly technology has advanced over the past 25 years, it's not surprising that my time here has encompassed such extremes in publishing. And now as I prepare to retire, the delivery of news and information at U of G has come to its inevitable conclusion — going completely online.

Of course, technological advances aren't the only changes I've experienced at the University. Over the years, I've worked for four presidents and six directors and seen my department change its name four (or was it five?) times. I've also seen countless colleagues come and go

and sometimes come back again.

The other day, Prof. Jim Atkinson of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science was telling me he came to Guelph 40 years ago to do his PhD and didn't plan on staying any longer than the time it took to finish his degree. Ditto, I said. When I completed my BA here in 1974, I never dreamed I'd return one day to work here, and when I did, I never dreamed I'd still be here 25 years later.

There are some who might say I ended up staying this long just to avoid cleaning my office, but the truth is, when you're happy doing what you're doing, there's really no reason to go anywhere else.

Before I put a final -30- on this column, I want to salute the *News Bulletin/At Guelph* editors who went before me — Betty Keeling, Ann Middleton and Sandra Webster — and the many writers, photographers, artists, desktoppers and other staff who have played a part in documenting life on this campus for more than 50 years.

The newspaper itself has now become a piece of University of Guelph history, and although its virtual successor won't look or feel the same (or leave ink on your fingers), it will continue to foster the sense of community and common purpose that has always flourished here at Guelph.

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RELAY RAISES \$32,000

U of G students raised more than \$32,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society during last month's Relay for Life. About 275 people in teams of 10 participated in the 12-hour event in the Gryphon Dome. The money raised will help support cancer patients and fund research into more effective treatments.

FRENCH SCHOLARS GATHER

U of G's French studies program hosted the 20th- and 21st-Century French and Francophone International Colloquium in Toronto last month. Profs. Dawn Cornelio and Frédérique Arroyas were the principal organizers of the conference, which featured 250 speakers.

DONOR TRIBUTE PLANNED

U of G's human anatomy program holds its annual donor tribute service April 7 at 6 p.m. in War Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome.

TED CONFERENCE APRIL 9

U of G faculty and students will reveal what they are passionate about at the first TEDxGuelphU talks April 9. Organized by students and modelled after the annual TED Conference in California, the event will feature 12 speakers who will share their stories with a limited audience. These talks will then be posted online. For more information, visit www.tedxguelphu.com.

The following appointments were announced recently at U of G:

- Abby Blinch, web communications specialist, University of Guelph-Humber
- Frances Determann, undergraduate graduation and convocation co-ordinator, Registrarial Services
- Animesh Dutta, assistant professor, School of Engineering
- Gloria Gonzalez-Morales, assistant professor, Department of Psychology
- Sharon Helder, secretary to the associate deans, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences
- Dale Lackeyman, science learning specialist, U of G Library
- Erin Mancini, liaison officer, Cooperative Education and Career Services
- Jeff McFarlane, research facility formperson, Ponsonby Research Station
- Leab Mitchell, registered veterinary technician, OVC Health Sciences Centre
- Barbara Piccoli, human resources assistant, Physical Resources
- Sandra Reginato, manager, finance and administration, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

CORRECTION

IN THE MARCH 24 issue of *At Guelph*, it was incorrectly reported that the appointment of Prof. Gerarda Darlington, Mathematics and Statistics, as associate dean (academic) of the College of Physical and Engineering Science is for a one-year term. It is actually for five years.

Volunteer Work Recognized

Winegard awards honour community contributions of Guelph faculty, staff, students

THE CONTRIBUTIONS of three outstanding community volunteers from U of G were recognized last week by the United Way of Guelph and Wellington and the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington.

The 2010 Dr. William Winegard Exemplary Volunteer Involvement Awards were presented to Barbara Leslie, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Population Medicine; Julie Hutchins, a staff member in Student Housing Services; and Tin Vo, a fourth-year student in molecular biology and genetics.

Leslie, a DVM and M.Sc. graduate of Guelph, was honoured for her volunteer contributions to a number of local organizations. She currently serves on the boards of directors for Hospice Wellington and Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. She also volunteers as a communications coach with undergraduate veterinary students.

Hutchins was recognized for her volunteer roles in a range of organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph, Guelph Soccer and Church of Our Lady.

Vo was lauded for his contribu-

tions to student life and his community. This has included promoting health concerns with the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County and volunteering as a medical first responder with St. John Ambulance. He is also involved in the LINK Program, which helps international students make the transition to life in Canada.

The Winegard awards were created in 2007 to highlight volunteerism in the University community. The winners receive original artwork created by U of G student Tori Drost.

Book Takes Stock of Teaching

Active learning engages students, improves academic performance

BY REBECCA KENDALL

A NEW BOOK co-edited by Prof. Julia Christensen Hughes, dean of the College of Management and Economics, argues that post-secondary institutions need to enhance faculty teaching practices to improve student learning outcomes.

Taking Stock: Research on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education is a compilation of essays written by internationally renowned experts in teaching and learning, including president Alastair Summerlee. The book draws on evidence suggesting

that common teaching practices do not adequately respond to the diverse learning needs of students.

"It is important for government and post-secondary institutions to create the context in which faculty are encouraged to use teaching methods that will lead to high-quality educational outcomes for more of their students," says Christensen Hughes. "Overwhelming evidence suggests that when faculty adopt active-learning pedagogies, students become more engaged in their learning and are better able to master skills and concepts."

Commissioned by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, the book identifies a number of strategies for improved teaching and learning. These include support for the scholarship of teaching and learning; providing grants and establishing teaching chairs; faculty recruitment, selection, promotion and tenure processes in which teaching and learning competence and scholarship are properly assessed and valued; and professional-development opportunities that are offered in collaboration with educational developers and local teaching centres.

Collaboration Focus of Annual Teaching, Learning Conference

Day to explore, celebrate processes, challenges, benefits of working collaboratively

U OF G's 23rd annual Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference May 11 will explore and celebrate the processes, challenges and benefits of collaboration. In line with the theme, the conference is being sponsored jointly by the College of Arts and the College of Physical and Engineering Science.

The day will showcase a range of collaborative teaching and learning activities, practices and tools from across the University's undergraduate

and graduate curricula.

Kicking off the conference is keynote speaker Lisa Lattuca, an associate professor of higher education and senior research associate in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University. Her publications include the book *Creating Interdisciplinary: Interdisciplinary Research Among College and University Faculty*.

Lattuca's talk will focus on "Interdisciplinary Competence: A

Learning Goal for Students — and Faculty?"

The day will continue with showcases and workshops focusing on three themes: "Collaboration in the Classroom," "Collaboration and Technology" and "Working Collaboratively."

For more information or to register, visit www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli. If you have questions, call Mary Nairn at Ext. 53571 or send email to tliconf@uoguelph.ca.

OVC Prof Gears Up for a Cause

FOR PROF. TOM GIBSON, a small-animal surgeon in the Department of Clinical Studies, nearly every day is the same: Get on the bike and ride. Ride outside — even when it's the middle of winter. Ride inside — for hours at a time.

Cycling is a labour of love as he prepares for his part in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride 2010, a 7,200-kilometre fundraising ride that will take him from Vancouver to Halifax Sept. 9 to 23.

"It's a cause that means a lot to

me," says Gibson, who notes that the organization that supports the ride — the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation — directs 100 per cent of donations to the cause.

Money raised will go toward a number of initiatives, including pediatric cancer research, family support and wellness programs, and collaborations among cancer scientists, agencies and charities.

On March 7, more than \$50,000 was raised for the foundation at the Guelph Inside Ride event in the sci-

ence complex atrium. More than 40 teams of six riders took part, with each participant spinning on a stationary bike for 10 minutes. Gibson has also raised more than \$11,000 on his national ride website.

"I'm just so overwhelmed and gratified by the support of everyone who has stepped up to support this great cause," he says. "I can't wait for the ride to start."

For more information or to make a donation, go to www.snker.com/tomgibson.

people

SLG LEADER HONOURED

U of G student Derek Smalls has won an Outstanding Supplemental Instruction Leader Award from the International Centre for Supplemental Instruction. The award recognizes supported-learning group leaders from around the world who have demonstrated exemplary performance and commitment. U of G student Brendan Dean was also nominated for the award.

PAINTINGS ON EXHIBIT

A solo exhibition of new paintings by Prof. John Kissick, director of the School of Fine Art and Music, runs from May 1 to 31 at the Leo Kamen Gallery in Toronto. In June, a 10-year survey of his work titled "John Kissick: An Anxious Decade" will open at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery before touring the country. Prof. Martin Pearce will show new paintings at the Transit Gallery in Hamilton in May.

NIGHTINGALE FOCUS OF TALK

University professor emerita Lynn McDonald, Sociology and Anthropology, gave a talk on Florence Nightingale last month at the Nightingale family home in Embley Park, Hampshire, England.

SKATERS TO COMPETE

Two U of G students will represent Canada at the World Synchronized Skating Championships April 9 and 10 in Colorado Springs. Melissa MacIver, a first-year DVM student, and Meghan MacPhee, a fourth-year B.Comm. student, will compete with their team, Black Ice, against 23 teams from 19 countries.

MUSIC PROF GIVES TALK

Prof. James Harley, Fine Art and Music, whose 2004 book, *Xenakis: His Life in Music*, is coming out in paperback later this year, gave an invited talk in New York City last month in conjunction with an exhibition on composer Iannis Xenakis. Harley was recently awarded a commission to create a new work for Ensemble Transmission to be premiered in Montreal in October.

SPEECH TAKES TOP PRIZE

Danve Castroverde, a graduate student in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, competed at the Toastmasters division contests last month in Kitchener and captured top spot in the evaluation speech contest for western Ontario. He will now go on to the District 86 competition in Mississauga.

KUDOS FOR MLA STUDENTS

U of G master of landscape architecture students Robert Cram, Philip Dixon and James Giddings received an honourable mention for their submission to the Atlanta, Ga., Park Pride student design competition.

IN MEMORIAM

Jan Hlavca, a painter in Physical Resources since 1994, died March 12 at the age of 60. He is survived by his wife, Ana; a daughter, Diane; a grandchild, Jaret; and his parents and two siblings in Yugoslavia.

New Engineering Majors Will Raise School Profile

Computer and biomedical majors planned for fall will help make U of G bigger player in Ontario engineering programs, says prof

BY ANDREW VOWLES

IF ENGINEERING SCHOOLS were T-shirts, Guelph would need to trade in its small for a medium. Two new degree majors in computer engineering and biomedical engineering to begin this fall have helped attract about 24 per cent more applicants to the School of Engineering this year compared with 2009.

Add in a surge of undergraduates who arrived last fall for the first year of the school's mechanical engineering degree, and you're looking at a bigger presence for Guelph among Ontario's engineering programs, says Prof. John Runciman. Last year, more than 300 students entered the school — twice the intake of 12 years ago when the biomechanics professor himself arrived at Guelph.

"That's changing our place among Ontario engineering schools from being a small player to being a

mid-sized school," says Runciman, who helped lead the planning for last year's debut of mechanical engineering and is overseeing the introduction of this year's biomedical engineering degree.

The mix of existing and new programs — seven in all, compared with four programs just two years ago — offers opportunities and poses challenges for the school.

Providing a wider range of programs, particularly in high-demand fields, will raise Guelph's engineering profile and help attract more students, says Prof. Medhat Moussa, who's been involved in preparing the new computer engineering degree.

Besides broadening the mix, the new programs are intended to help strengthen the school's existing offerings. Both biomedical and computer engineering have grown out of long-standing niche programs in the school.

The biological engineering program has traditionally taught students about bioprocessing, food engineering and human health applications of engineering. Now the biomedical engineering degree will extend those health aspects into biomechanics, bioinstrumentation (medical imaging) and pharmaceuticals.

"There's a big pharmaceutical industry in southern Ontario," says Runciman, who expects grads will find jobs with drug companies and pursue careers as clinicians and researchers.

"We've placed co-op students and grads in these companies for years, and we wanted to ramp up that relationship."

Engineering systems and computing, another of the school's original four programs, teaches students how to design computer-based engineering systems. The new computer

engineering degree will enable students to focus on computer chip and microsystem design, software engineering, and artificial intelligence and robotics. The new program drew about 200 applications this year.

The School of Engineering's other original programs are environmental and water resources engineering. All seven programs offer co-op options.

This year, the school has about 675 undergraduates and 160 graduate students. In four years, those numbers will roughly double to about 1,200 undergrads and 230 grad students, says Prof. Hussein Abdullah, director of the school.

He says a key challenge lies in accommodating that projected enrolment growth. A planned multi-phase expansion will see new lab space added this year at both the north and south ends of the Thornbrough Building. Plans for the

next two years also call for renovating existing Thornbrough labs and the adjoining Richards Building.

Another big challenge, says Abdullah, will be holding on to Guelph's traditional "small school" strengths as enrolment doubles.

The school expects its classes to remain relatively small, and all first-year students will continue to take a common first semester.

At Guelph, students interact in a way that is more difficult at larger engineering schools with stand-alone departments in various disciplines, says Jason Tyszk, the school's recruitment officer. "We don't have departments. Students talk to each other."

Runciman says U of G engineering students also benefit from research and teaching connections with life sciences departments on campus. For instance, he has worked with colleagues in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences.

"We couldn't offer this biomedical engineering degree program without them," he says.

Students Think Green, Healthy With Soy

Food packaging, muffin mix take top prizes at 14th annual Project SOY competition

BY TARA WALSH
SPARK PROGRAM

BIODEGRADABLE food packaging and soybean powder muffin mix were among the winners at the 14th annual Project SOY (Soybean Opportunities for Youth) competition. The event showcased 18 projects from 37 U of G students.

Project SOY awards cash prizes to students representing Guelph and its regional campuses at Kemptville, Al-

fred and Ridgeway in two categories: diploma and undergraduate/graduate. First place wins \$2,500, second place receives \$1,000, and third place is awarded \$500.

In the diploma category, Samuel Nyandwi of Campus d'Alfred won the top prize for developing PSOYA, a soy-based muffin mix that is high in protein and fibre and does not contain gluten, lactose or nuts. Second prize went to Brian Romanick of Ridgeway for SOYTasty Season-

ings, and Lugi Stephano Bikoroti of Alfred captured third place for creating FROMASOYA.

Topping the undergraduate/graduate category was Sara Bonham for Soya Plast BioPak, a soy-based, 100-per-cent compostable bioplastic food packaging material. Tonya Papanikolov, Matt McSweeney, Audrey Draper and Lauren Martin took second place for developing FRITZ and Soysup. Third prize went to Meaghan Metcalf and Amanda

Andreevski for Soylicious Ravioli.

"I'm in awe of the wide variety of projects in this competition," said Prof. Kevin Hall, vice-president (research). "When I was a kid, no one ate soybeans or used them much for products. Now that's changing."

Project SOY is sponsored by Dekalb Brand Seeds; SOY20/20; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and Grain Farmers of Ontario.

THANKS FOR KEEPING US INFORMED, ENGAGED

All members of the University community can welcome the move to provide campus news in digital format. It will be more immediate, flexible, economical and environmentally friendly.

We should not, however, let At Guelph leave the scene without paying tribute to the superior job editor Barbara Chance and her team have done over many years in keeping readers informed about life at Guelph and our regional campuses.

At Guelph's blend of news about teaching programs, research activities, organizational changes, policy decisions and the multitudinous activities that occur on campus has helped us all be aware of developments in the large and complex institution that U of G has become.

The attention devoted to the activities of people — faculty, staff, students, administrators and retirees — has been a key element in strengthening the sense of community that is our hallmark.

So thank you, Barbara, Linda and the rest of the staff in Communications and Public Affairs, for all you've done to keep the University family informed, engaged and committed.

Prof. Thorald (Sandy) Warley

And the Winner Is...

Everyone who entered At Guelph's "Where Are You Now?" contest this semester was eligible for a draw for a \$50 gift certificate provided by the U of G Bookstore. The winner is Danny Martin of Physical Resources. Fran Kitchen, Ray Hutchison and Gerrit Bos correctly identified the March 24 photo as the Reynolds Building.

The minimum wage is going up.

If you're an employer, here's what you need to know.

	General Minimum Wage	Students under 18 and working not more than 28 hours per week or during a school holiday	Liquor Server	Hunting & Fishing Guides: for less than five consecutive hours in a day	Hunting & Fishing Guides: for five or more hours in a day whether or not the hours are consecutive	Homeworkers (people doing paid work in their home for an employer)
Current wage rate	\$9.50/hour	\$8.90/hour	\$8.25/hour	\$47.50	\$95.00	110% of the minimum wage
Mar. 31, 2010 wage rate	\$10.25/hour	\$9.60/hour	\$8.90/hour	\$51.25	\$102.50	110% of the minimum wage

On March 31, 2010, the general minimum wage will increase to \$10.25 per hour from the current rate of \$9.50 per hour.

To find out more about how the new minimum wage guidelines affect employers and employees, call or visit the Ministry of Labour web site.

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Cheryl Ruddock Slip

April 24 to July 18



▲ Cheryl Ruddock, *Four Slips*, 2009 (oil and thread on canvas, 36 x 108 inches)

Guelph artist Cheryl Ruddock has painted for more than twenty years. For her solo exhibition, *Slip*, Ruddock pushes the frame of her work, expanding her repertoire to include shaped canvases and sculptural drawings, in addition to an expansive exploration of colour and texture on two-dimensional surfaces. As the title of the exhibition suggests, "slip" refers to the sheathed body that, in Ruddock's hands, sometimes takes human form and other times forms the swollen belly of a kayak, painted, stained, and burned.

To slip is to move smoothly, easily, quietly, but also to fall and to come to rest. As a movement between two parts where none should exist, *Slip* embodies Ruddock's practice as she forges relationships between painted surface and sculptured form, robust palettes and white-on-white, organic (sometimes unnatural) botanicals and space rendered from the abstract.

Ruddock has travelled to and lived in regions across Canada but she has made her home and developed her practice in Guelph, Ontario. *Slip* marks the second time that the MSAC has developed a solo

project with the artist. The 1989 exhibition *Girl Colours*, curated by Ingrid Jenkner for the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, was Ruddock's first solo exhibition in a public art gallery. In Ruddock's rich pastel palette and iconographic imagery, Jenkner recognized the artist's clear vision and commitment to cultivating a new visual language, a language that continues to evolve in Ruddock's new works.

Slip focuses heavily on Ruddock's current production, but features seminal earlier works including the gouache paintings *Prodigal Girl IV* (1992) and *Bathing Suit and Plant* (1999), as well as works that have never before been shown publicly, including a massive oil-on-canvas triptych of a fallen tree (1987). Ruddock's restrained works in white include *Blood Loss* (1989) in graphite and acrylic and the *Stick Drawings* (2007-2010), works made from stripped, bent, bound, and white-washed cedar branches that hang on the wall and arc overhead. Among her pod-shaped canvases is a life-sized kayak, cocooned in a painted skin and suspended from the ceiling to hover inches from the floor. *Slip*

reveals the depth of Ruddock's imagery and the resilience of her mark making, as she paints across the breadth of her practice and pushes her work onto new and fertile ground.

The exhibition *Cheryl Ruddock: Slip* is curated by Dawn Owen, assistant curator, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. *Slip* premieres in Guelph then continues to the SDVA Campus Gallery, Georgian College (Barrie) from October 14 to November 14, 2010. In conjunction with the presentation of *Slip* at Georgian College, Ruddock's life sized kayak-shaped canvas will be installed at the MacLaren Art Centre (Massie Family Courtyard).

Cheryl Ruddock: Slip is supported by an exhibition catalogue published by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre and featuring essays by exhibition curator Dawn Owen and guest writer John Kissick.

Opening Reception

Saturday, April 24 from 3 to 5 PM

Artist's Talk with Cheryl Ruddock

Tuesday, April 27 at noon

Jeff Tutt Prospect and Refuge

May 5 to July 18

358 Gordon Street
at College Avenue
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 1Y1

HOURS

Art Centre/Gallery Shop
Tues. to Sun., noon to 5 PM
from January to December
(August by appointment)

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dawn to dusk

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In this exhibition of abstract painting, Guelph artist Jeff Tutt explores the expressive potential of the duo-chrome. *Prospect and Refuge* includes two series of paintings, or set structures, upon which the drama of the contemporary nervous system meets the unconscious imagery of Sesame Street, adolescent desire, and fear of the technological sublime. The binary code of Tutt's paintings is architectural, an allegorical space where light from our computer screens throws shadows and reflections on the walls. The illusionism of these works rests in the periphery, around the edges of the viewer's conscious contemplation.

Tutt studied at the Ontario College of Art & Design (Toronto) before graduating from the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (Halifax) in 2002. Currently, he is a Master of Fine Arts candidate at the University of Guelph. Selected recent exhibitions include 1:15 at Georgia Scherman Projects (Toronto), *Facing the Screen* at the University of Toronto Art Centre, and *A Sport and a Pastime* at the Jennifer Kostuik Gallery (Vancouver). Tutt has participated in selected performances in Seattle, Vancouver, and Stratford, as well as Guelph in 2010. In 2003, Tutt was a semi-finalist (Western Canada) in the RBC New Canadian Painting Competition.

< Jeff Tutt, *With Child 4*, 2009 (acrylic and latex enamel on canvas, 62 x 63.75 inches)

Exhibition on Tour

Natalka Husar: Burden of Innocence

Burden of Innocence features the work of Toronto artist Natalka Husar. For this exhibition, Husar takes her lifelong obsession with painting and with Ukraine, her ancestral home, into new territory. She presents her work in three interwoven, though unresolved, narratives in the form of a history play in three acts.

Organized for circulation by the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, the exhibition is a curatorial collaboration between the MSAC, McMaster Museum of Art, and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery. *Natalka Husar: Burden of Innocence* premiered at the McMaster Museum of Art (fall 2009), came to the MSAC (winter 2010), then tours to Museum London (summer 2010), the Tom Thomson Art Gallery (winter 2011), and the MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan (summer 2011).

In support of the exhibition, the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre is producing a major publication on the work of Natalka Husar featuring essays by Gerta Moray, Dawn Owen, Carol Podedworny, Stuart Reid, and Meeka Walsh. The 'Husar Handbook' will be launched at Museum London in September 2010.

Husar's limited edition artist book with Janice Kulyk Keefer features full colour reproductions of the artist's paintings and text by the writer. Their collaboration began on a journey to Ukraine in 2005. Despite their North American birth, both Husar and Kulyk Keefer felt a deep connection to the country and culture that shaped the lives of their parents and profoundly influenced their upbringing. Supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, their journey into the social, political, and cultural vortex of today's Ukraine has resulted in this extraordinary artist book. Husar's artist book is available for purchase at each of the venues on the tour.



▲ Natalka Husar, *Dancing with the Dead*, 2004 (oil on rag board, 30 x 40 inches), Collection of John and Sherrill Grace (Vancouver)

Art Centre News

Our Team

The MSAC would like to acknowledge our winter 2010 student employees (Ontario Work Study Program), interns, and volunteers who have gained valuable experience working with MSAC staff in all aspects of gallery operations:

Rachel Bender, Jodi Campbell, Margaret Cassidy, Christine Daponte, Emily Dickson, Darryn Doull, Sarah Hughes, Patrick Krzyzanowski, Melissa Lamoureux, Christine Meagher, Melissa Mota, Claire Mussar, Marianne Pointer, Jessica Robbins, Mukit Sharif, Avery Shaw, Vanessa Tignanelli, and Andrew Townsend.

Gallery Shop/Art Sales & Rental

The Gallery Shop offers a wide selection of Inuit sculptures, as well as works by regional artists in pottery, raku, blown glass, wood and silver. Original art works in a variety of media are available for sale, or minimal rental costs. Come in and browse—you may find that special gift you have been looking for! Proceeds from the Gallery Shop/Art Sales & Rental program sponsor art acquisitions for the MSAC's permanent collection.

Shane Krepakevich Eight Functional Objects Based on Bodily and Architectural Relations Between my Partner, Mother, Father and Myself

May 5 to July 18



▲ Shane Krepakevich, *Rug Stool*, 2010 (mixed media, dimensions variable)

Guelph artist Shane Krepakevich has a longstanding interest in the speculative potential of data and the communicative capacity of everyday objects. Using simple quantitative assessments of the lengths, areas, and volumes of his apartment, body, partner's body, and related measurements involving his parents, Krepakevich has generated four pairs of functional objects: a table with a bowl, a curtain rod with a curtain, an area rug with a step stool, and a coat rack with a bag. The implicit bodily references emphasize the representational tendencies of commonplace objects as well as their potential to act as mediators in relationships. The four object-pairs are discrete sculptures accompanied by a text panel that communicates the informational source of each work.

Krepakevich completed a Bachelor of Science in Geology at the University of Alberta (2001) before attending the University of Guelph, where he is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate. Selected recent exhibitions include 1:15 at Georgia Scherman Projects (Toronto), *Some Kind of Wonderful: 4th Annual KWAG Biennial* at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, *Port Credit Project* at the Blackwood Gallery/Temporary Exhibition Space (Port Credit), and *Window Dressing* at the Art Gallery of Edmonton. In 2009, Krepakevich received the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Summer Art Camps 2010

Eight (8) week-long, full-day art camps (9 AM to 4 PM) are offered for 7-12 year-olds.

Fees 5-day camp \$185 (\$160 members) | 4-day camp \$150 (\$130) | Registration Open Now

(NOTE: Campers arrive by 8:45 AM and depart no later than 4:15 PM)

Summer art camps feature fun hands-on opportunities for children to explore the MSAC's collections and sculpture park while creating art. Each camp is based on a theme from key periods in art history and explores a variety of media including sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, video, and performance. We offer four different themes in July that are repeated in August.

The summer art classes emphasize fun through individual and group art projects inside the gallery and outside in the sculpture park. There will be short term projects and projects that may take up to a week to complete. At the end of each week parents are invited to attend an exhibition. The camps are supplemented with active extra-curricular indoor and outdoor activities.

Camp 1 Pop and Op Art in the 60s
July 5-9 | August 3-6 (4 day week)
The 1960's was an important period in art history. Two innovative art movements were born and flourished during this time: Pop and Op Art. Pop art took its name and its influences from popular culture and transformed everyday objects into art. Op art was all about optical illusion: hard edged and precise compositions of line and colour



▲ Making art at the MSAC

that gave the illusion of movement. Op art started in galleries but soon spread into popular culture and was used in furniture, clothing, and fashion design. To this day we still see the influences of Pop and Op art and they provide great ideas for art projects.

Camp 2 Cubism Crazy
July 12-16 | August 9-13
What's so great about Cubism? Cubism changed how artists approached their work. Cubists broke down the objects they depicted in an attempt to display the subject matter from a variety

of sides and angles; moving away from simple visual representation of an object towards a conceptual rendering. This is also how art gallery visitors today are able to look at objects and perceive them as ideas as opposed to literal depictions of figures, objects, or landscapes. The projects developed in this camp inspire creative thinking.

Camp 3 What's New?
July 19-23 | August 16-20
After centuries of art making, what could there be left for artists to do? Artists today manage to find new methods of creation through the use of computers and digital imagery. The traditional tools of the artist (pencil, paper, paint, and canvas) are combined with photography, video, and performance to create endless possibilities and an enormous amount of fun.

Camp 4 The Far North: Inuit art
July 26-30 | August 23-27
The MSAC's collection of Inuit art is the focus of this camp. Inuit artists capture both their traditional ways of life and the influences of modern society in their art. This camp is a great way to gain an appreciation of an art that is uniquely Canadian and for art campers to use the art-making materials that are the tools of Canadian Inuit artists.

MSAC awarded \$19,000 grant to repatriate rare Jessie Oonark drawings to Canada

17 drawings (circa 1960s) will become part of the MSAC's internationally renowned Inuit art collection



▲ Jessie Oonark, *Wolf*, circa 1962–1969 (felt-tip marker on Crumbacher all-purpose sketch pad paper, 9 x 12 inches)

In summer 2009, the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre learned of an extraordinary opportunity to repatriate to Canada a very early sketchbook containing seventeen drawings by nationally acclaimed, first-generation Inuit artist Jessie Oonark (1906–1985).

The Oonark sketchbook was brought to our attention by William H. Rose, an American art collector who visited the Canadian Arctic communities of Cape Dorset and Baker Lake in 2002. His collection now features a broad representation of the arts produced in the Canadian Arctic with specific focus on original drawings, including Oonark's sketchbook.

Having heard of the MSAC's internationally renowned Inuit art collection, Rose visited Guelph in 2009. The MSAC started collecting Oonark's work in 1980, the year that the gallery was founded. In 2006, the gallery received, as a gift from Samuel and Esther Sarick (Toronto), eight Oonark sketchbooks containing 79 drawings of the same vintage as the sketchbook in Rose's collection. As the only public art gallery to hold eight of the nine known sketchbooks by Oonark, the MSAC recognized the unique and important opportunity to repatriate the ninth sketchbook to Canada and sought funds to enable the art purchase.

In fall 2009, MSAC assistant curator Dawn Owen wrote a grant application to the Movable Cultural Property Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage. The application was received as "one of the most compelling and comprehensive" ever submitted to the program. The directorate believed so strongly in the MSAC's application that it waived the condition that the art work be at least 50 years old in order to qualify for grant funding.

On January 25, 2010, the MSAC received a letter announcing the success of our application. The Oonark sketchbook was then purchased for the MSAC collection with the assistance of a Movable Cultural Property grant accorded by the Department of Canadian Heritage under the terms of the Cultural Property Export and Import Act, and with support from Bill and Wynn Bensen, Helen Brimmell, Ron and Jean Higgins, Samuel and Esther Sarick, and the Art Centre Volunteers.

The MSAC is especially grateful to William H. Rose, an astute and dedicated collector of Inuit art, who sought to return the Oonark sketchbook to Canada, brought it to our attention at the MSAC, and generously donated a portion of its value in order to make this art purchase possible. The MSAC is planning to unveil the Oonark sketchbooks, along with drawings, prints, and rare print stones from the MSAC collection, in a future exhibition.

Jessie Oonark was born around 1906 in the Back River area, about one hundred and fifty miles north of Baker Lake, the only inland community in Nunavut, where she settled in 1958 and lived until her death in 1985. In 1960, at age 54, Oonark made her first drawings, releasing a suite of six through the newly established Cape Dorset printmaking collective. Oonark produced drawings, prints, and wall hangings for nineteen years until she lost the dexterity in her hands following a neurological operation. In less than two decades, Oonark developed a distinctive style that she expressed through various art mediums: bold, flat areas of colour emphasizing form and design for which she became internationally known. The hallmarks of Oonark's mature style are evident in her earliest drawings.

Gardenscapes 2010

Sunday, June 13 from noon to 6 pm Tickets \$15 (rain or shine)

Gardenscapes 2010, the 18th annual self-guided tour of Guelph gardens, is a fund-raising project organized by the MSAC Volunteers. Featuring eight extraordinary private properties that are opened to the public for a special, one day, event. Lemonade, tea, coffee, and treats prepared by the Volunteers will be served in our Hospitality Suite on the second floor of the MSAC. The gallery shop and sculpture park will be open.

1 Jacqueline & Howard Johnson, Mapleridge Farm
5448 Silvercreek Parkway North
Originally called Sowerby Cottage, this stone farmhouse once fronted on the Old Mennonite Trail by which early settlers used to bring their produce to the Guelph Farmer's Market. For the past 36 years, the current owners have been bringing their organic vegetable crops to the same market. Both Harrowsmith and Canadian Living have chronicled their adventures in farming! Featuring out-of-doors Art by Heather Grummett "Natural Twig Accents."

2 Larry & Marie Colero
37 Woodland Glen
Variety is the keynote in this low maintenance garden which blooms from early spring to the first snow. Bulbs, iris, bleeding heart, trillium, columbine, and a perennial sweet pea lead on to peonies, tree lily, bee balm, phlox, with hostas, shrubs, and a large winter hardy cactus. An extra bed along the fence on the conservation side holds flowering shrubs.

3 10 Hartwood Court
Cultivated by native plant ecological gardeners, the beds on this property are arranged as mini habitats with plants that would naturally grow together in nature. Their goal is to attract insects, birds, and animals while minimizing the use of supplemental water and chemicals. In the front, the prairie/alpine meadow planting features hardy cactus and several rare alvar species. The rear yard is planted with Ontario natives, a mix of grasses and wildflowers, a wooded area, and a fern collection.

4 Larry and Susan Martin
7074 Gore Road, Puslinch
This wild and whimsical garden is nestled in a cedar forest. A wide variety of plants is made possible by the property's many micro-climates that provide diverse habitats on less than an acre. First among the features is a 100-foot rock garden along the driveway, followed by a 'secret' pond in the woodland which became natural, fed by one of the area's many springs.

5 Hedi Philippi & Mark Johnson
1770 Gore Road
These few acres provide a diversity of sun, shade, hot, dry, and/or wet conditions featuring the newest varieties and older trustworthy favorite perennials. Natural springs and a stream feed a large pond. Featuring out-of-doors Art by Graeme Sheffield "Blacksmithing and Custom Forged Metalworks."

6 Julianna & Geoff Stephens
3 Amalia Crescent
This property has the charm of a cottage in the city. With the guidance of landscape architect Paul Brydges, the existing turf grass was removed to create an outdoor living area including a dry stack limestone wall, stone fireplace, and flagstone pathways. Various grasses, shrubs, trees, and perennials were added against the background of conservation land. A stone waterfall flows into an inground pool with hot tub. Featuring out-of-doors Art by Leslie Miles "Sculpture in Steel and Wood."

7 Wendy Lewis & Lee Douglas
15 Glenholme Drive
This densely wooded, two acre lot with very rocky soil has evolved into a many-faceted garden. Featuring a large traditional circle within a circle, formal perennial bed and a pond for water plants and fish, surrounded by siberian iris and ladies mantle that can be admired from the shady gazebo. A woodland fairy garden features shade loving and native woodland plants.

8 Julie Yager & Mike Wilson
5245 7th Line Bramosa
This farm dates to the 1860s. Family friend of the current owners, British horticulturalist Peter Thoday, planned the hard landscape of the garden. He designed a curtilage, created by a low stone wall and a wide gravel terrace on three sides of the stone farmhouse; a sunken vegetable potager; a formal oval lawn; a secluded lawn with a



▲ Gardenscapes 2010 (Photograph courtesy of Annette Twist)

restored well; and a peony garden centered on an old urn. The garden plantings are under renovation by Gary Snelling, whose artistic eye has enhanced the original plan. Gary's paintings will be on display in the newly renovated studio off the terrace.

Tickets and Maps
Available at each of the gardens on the day of the tour. Advance tickets can be purchased from: Brock Road Nursery, Buy the Yard, Framing & Art Centre (Gordon Street), Meadowville Garden Centres, Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, and Royal City Nursery.

Exhibitions

Cheryl Ruddock: Slip
April 24 to July 18

Jeff Tutt: Prospect and Refuge
May 5 to July 18

Shane Krepakevich: Eight Functional Objects Based on Bodily and Architectural Relations Between my Partner, Mother, Father, and Myself
May 5 to July 18

Drawings from Baker Lake and Cape Dorset
Continuing to July 18

Events

All events will take place at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, April 24 from 3 to 5 PM
OPENING RECEPTION AND CATALOGUE LAUNCH:
Cheryl Ruddock: *Slip*

Tuesday, April 27 at noon
ARTIST'S TALK: Guelph artist Cheryl Ruddock on her solo exhibition *Slip*.

Wednesday, May 5
EXHIBITION BEGINS: Featuring abstract paintings by Guelph artist Jeff Tutt in the solo exhibition *Prospect and Refuge*

Wednesday, May 5
EXHIBITION BEGINS: Featuring sculpted objects by Guelph artist Shane Krepakevich in the solo exhibition *Eight Functional Objects Based on Bodily and Architectural Relations Between my Partner, Mother, Father, and Myself*

Monday, May 24 from 12:30 PM to 2 PM
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 8 at noon
LEARNING LUNCH: MSAC assistant curator Dawn Owen on "Acquiring the Jessie Oonark sketchbook for the MSAC collection" with special preview of the drawings

Sunday, June 13 from noon to 6 PM
GARDENSCAPES 2010: 18th annual self-guided tour of Guelph gardens, organized by the Art Centre Volunteers, featuring extraordinary properties cultivated by 8 local gardeners. Visit the complimentary Hospitality Suite on the second floor of the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, the gallery shop, and sculpture park.
Tickets \$15 (rain or shine)

July and August 2010
SUMMER ART CAMPS
Eight (8) week-long, full-day camps (9 AM-4 PM) for 7-12 year-olds
Fee for 5-day camp \$185 (\$160 members)
Fee for 4-day camp \$150 (\$130 members)

Camp 1 Pop and Op Art in the 60s
July 5-9 | August 3-6 (four-day week)

Camp 2 Cubism Crazy
July 12-16 | August 9-13

Camp 3 What's New?
July 19-23 | August 16-20

Camp 4 The Far North: Inuit art
July 26-30 | August 23-27

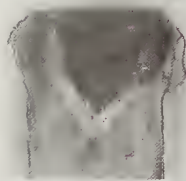
Campers arrive by 8:45 AM and leave by 4:15 PM daily
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JOIN OUR E-NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST Contact Aidan Ware at info@msac.ca

Contact Aidan Ware, Education Coordinator, for conference, reception, and tour bookings (info@msac.ca or 519.837.0010).

LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Cheryl Ruddock, *Slip* #6, 2009 (oil and thread on canvas); Jeff Tutt, *Prospect* 3, 2009 (acrylic and latex enamel on canvas); Gardenscapes 2010 (Photograph courtesy of Annette Twist).

RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: Cheryl Ruddock, *Lady Slipper*, 2005 (gouache on handmade paper); Shane Krepakevich, *Rack Bag*, 2010 (mixed media); Summer Art Camps (paintings drying on the line).



April 24 Cheryl Ruddock's *Slip*



May 5 Jeff Tutt's *Prospect and Refuge*



June 13 Gardenscapes 2010



April 27 Artist Talk with Cheryl Ruddock



May 5 Shane Krepakevich's *Eight Functional Objects Based on Bodily and Architectural Relations Between my Partner, Mother, Father, and Myself*



July and August Children's Art Camps

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Funding Boosts Cancer Research

BY BARRY GUNN

PROF. JIM PETRIK, Biomedical Sciences, has received \$200,000 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health and from the Ontario Women's Health Council to expand his work on ovarian cancer.

Petrik is one of only two scientists to receive a highly competitive mid-career investigator salary award this year. The awards are for scientists who have made outstanding contributions, demonstrated leadership in their field and developed a reputation for excellence in research.

"I feel very fortunate to receive this award," says Petrik. "It's a great opportunity for us to refocus the work on ovarian cancer. The lab is expanding, and the funds will allow me to devote more resources and intellectual energy toward taking the research to the next level."

His research team is investigating how anti-angiogenic therapies — targeting the blood vessels that feed the growth of tumours — can be used in combination with chemotherapy drugs to improve treatment of ovarian cancer.

"The goal is not only to make the treatments more effective and to improve outcomes for women, but also to improve their quality of life by reducing the use of chemotherapy drugs that have toxic side effects."

Petrik's lab is also supported by a CIHR operating grant, and his work on ovarian cancer with colleague Prof. Roger Moorehead was funded by the Ontario Cancer Research Network. In 2008, their team published research that identified a protein expressed by ovarian cancer cells that may help with early detection of the disease.

Petrik's lab is also looking at possible links between elevated blood sugar and cancer and, more specifically, how women with hyperglycemia may be prone to developing a more aggressive form of ovarian cancer.

"All cells use glucose in the blood as a source of fuel, but cancer cells use more than healthy cells," he says. "We want to take a closer look at the effects of hyperglycemic drugs and how we might use them to slow the growth of tumours, encourage regression and maybe even make them go away."

Running Hot and Cold

U of G researchers study how elephants, hippos, rhinos and other zoo animals control their internal thermostat

BY ANDREW VOWLES

DOES THE ZEBRA wear its white stripes on the black or its black stripes on the white? Alter that age-old puzzle slightly and you come close to the research interest of Esther Finegan: Did the zebra grow black stripes to warm up or white stripes to cool down?

As an adjunct graduate faculty member in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science (APS), Finegan studies thermoregulation, or how animals keep a comfortable body temperature. Not just any animals: she's interested in so-called "captive exotics" — zoo animals whose climate-control mechanisms remain mostly unstudied.

Elephants, hippos, rhinos, giraffes: how do these big beasts control their internal thermostat, and how can zookeepers and landscape architects better design the animals' surroundings to keep them happy and healthy?

She and her students are now pioneering thermoregulation studies in zoos and animal parks, notably the Toronto Zoo and a zoo in the southern United States.

Large land mammals face a thermo-challenge, says Finegan, a two-time Guelph graduate. The larger you are, the more internal mass you have compared with the surface area of your skin. For much the same reason that a jumbo-sized potato takes longer to cool than its mini-tuber cousin, an elephant ridding itself of excess heat faces a bigger task than a cow.

"By the time you're a mouse, you're almost all surface," she says.

It was a former student — Matthew Schotsman — whose work tipped off keepers about why their African elephants were agitated in the morning during hot spells. Not only were the animals getting hot under the collar during long days spent outside, but they were also unable to give off excess heat when their keepers brought them indoors at night.

That kind of information can help in improving housing and animal management, says Jen Gailis, a master's student with Finegan. Hoping to record that day-heating and night-cooling phenomenon, called "adaptive heterothermy," she will spend a month observing Asian elephants this spring.

During 30-hour stints shared with Finegan and another student, she will film the animals with a thermal-imaging camera to see how and when they store and radiate heat. The researchers will run the camera every 15 minutes to catch all the ac-



Esther Finegan and her students are pioneering thermoregulation studies in zoos and animal parks. PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

tion — even filming the elephants urinating to help measure changes in core body temperature.

They'll also record meteorological conditions and jot down the elephants' activity practically minute to minute. Among other things, they'll watch how the animals use shade, even down to which parts of their body are shaded.

African elephants use their large leaf-like ears as heat dispensers. Another of Finegan's grad students, Brandon LaForest, found that their smaller — and smaller-eared — Asian cousins use their trunks to radiate heat at night. No one is sure why, says Gailis, who hopes to learn more by observing just how elephants position themselves in shade and sun.

Other graduate and undergraduate students are looking at rhinos (Aly Van Slack), hippos (Katherine Stevenson) and giraffes (Denise Lukacs).

Dan Ingratta, a fifth-year student in animal biology, is studying black-and-white animals, specifically zebras and Malayan tapirs. He plans to use the imaging camera to compare surface temperatures on different parts of the animals' bodies.

"The black part of a zebra stand-

ing in the sun can be 10 degrees hotter on average than the white," says Finegan. But, she adds, "we don't know how much of a zebra is black or white — and does it matter?"

Taking a different tack, undergraduate Victoria Pyett is studying how fur insulates lions and tigers. (Thermal comfort in big cats was the topic of a thesis by recent MLA graduate Tory Young, who was co-supervised by Finegan. See "Lions and Tigers in Zoos, Oh My!" in the Feb. 10 issue of *At Guelph*.)

Other campus researchers have looked at thermoregulation in domestic animals. For example, APS professor Tina Widowski has studied housing and management practices for livestock, including shade-seeking behaviour in cattle and ther-

mal stressors in pigs during transport. But fewer scientists study the topic in zoo creatures, says Finegan.

To begin with, it wasn't thermoregulation that drew her but nutrition in farm animals. She studied sheep nutrition for her master's degree with APS professor Jock Buchanan-Smith and began her doctorate with him. After he retired, she completed her PhD with Prof. Jim Atkinson.

She developed a mathematical computer model of how herds of grazing beef cattle maintain heat outdoors. That work combined nutrition and thermoregulation.

"I'm interested in the whole animal," says Finegan, who still works with Atkinson and has taught his wildlife nutrition course.

Her research with the Toronto Zoo started about six years ago with devising diets for giraffes and moose. She widened her studies to Florida last year.

Finegan grew up in England and studied zoology and botany at the University of London. Her first work in Canada involved thermoregulation of a sort — her own. Along with other researchers from Laurentian University, she spent two summers on Devon Island in Canada's Arctic. She studied lichens as part of the International Biological Program, a large-scale ecosystem project in the 1960s and '70s.

Later she studied statistics and worked in stats and computing in Toronto before returning to school at Guelph.

Someday she'd like to take her studies beyond the zoo and park gates to, say, the African savannah. But she says it's important to work with captive animals to establish baselines in this young field. Besides, she enjoys working not just with the zoo animals but also with the visitors.

"Most people are really interested but have very little information on the animals," says Finegan, who sees herself partly as a U of G ambassador during her fieldwork. "That really is a bonus to me."

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Valerie Poulton

When Cells Go Amok

Continued from page 1

tinue or stop dividing. "It's part of the decision process," she says.

When that decision-making process goes awry, cancer can occur, allowing cells to basically run amok or even migrate in the body to start tumours in other tissues.

Last year, Wills and Jones co-authored a grant application that yielded new funding from the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.

Wills hopes studying signal pathways will ultimately help clinicians design trials for human patients.

"We're trying to provide information that, down the road, would help people in clinical settings to develop diagnostic markers."

Signal transduction allows a cell to collect information, analyze that data and respond. To grasp the idea, she says, think of how you might respond to learning about a burger sale at your favourite restaurant.

"You integrate that information with your hunger level, your desire for a burger and the change in your pocket, and decide whether you're going to buy a Whopper."

Now imagine a single cell having to make sense of the "advertisements" in its own world. "We're not talking about huge organisms. It's one simple unit that has to receive information and act on that. How does a single cell act as an entire or-

ganism would?"

Wills grew up in Lindsay and arrived at U of G as a 2003 President's Scholar. Now living in Guelph, she is a co-organizer of the SharpCuts independent film and music festival, which runs May 5 to 9.

Past festivals have screened her documentaries blending art and science. *Five Degrees* looked at undergraduate students striving to become scientists in Guelph labs. Wills has also filmed two documentaries about retired integrative biology professor Doug Larson.

In addition, she produced *Not Quite Famous*, a show that focused on her mother's career as a self-published author of historical novels.

Wills began exploring multimedia at age 14 as a producer and co-host of a community TV program for teens. Today she runs a production company called Double Helix Creations, a nod to the structure of DNA.

Merging film and science in another way, she completed a 10-minute short about an experimental procedure in Jones's lab submitted last month to the online *Journal of Visualized Experiments*.

"The blending of art and science brings the concept of research communications into an exciting new place," says Jones.

DELROS FUNG

Second-year student in hotel and food administration

Delros Fung is always up for learning something new. This winter, a friend introduced her to snowboarding, and Fung says: "I'm addicted! It's more thrilling than skiing and probably more dangerous, too."

That's given her a winter sport to add to the biking and walking she likes to do in warm weather.

She also has skills that she's been building on for many years. When she was about five, Fung began playing the zheng, a Chinese plucked zither, and eventually joined the Toronto Chinese Orchestra. In high school, after taking a course in food and nutrition, she and her friends decided to begin baking at home, and it's still one of her favourite things to do.

Here on campus, she's involved in events planning for U of G's Chinese Showbox Club, a group for people interested in DJ and radio production. "I met a lot of my friends through the club," she says.

Fung is also a member of St. John Ambulance and works volunteer shifts throughout the year.

All of this keeps her pretty busy, but she says her favourite activity of all is spending time with friends. They like to shop, cook and watch movies. "I loved *Alice in Wonderland*, but then, I love all Tim Burton's movies."



Delros Fung

Students play at the Woolwich Arms on the last Sunday afternoon of each month.

Celtic music, he says, "is a very sociable kind of music. We learn to play in groups and in public. If you've been to Ireland, you get used to walking into a pub and seeing musicians amusing themselves by playing instruments at a corner table. It's a lovely tradition that's been imported into this area."

Most Celtic musicians, McKittrick adds, learn more than one instrument, and he has added to his skills by learning to play the pennywhistle, an Irish instrument that's like a small recorder.

If you'd like to hear McKittrick and other musicians perform Celtic music, drop by the Shepherd's Pub in Elora on a Friday evening. For information about the college, visit www.riversidecelticcollege.ca.

JANET DONER

Co-ordinator of civic engagement in Student Life since 2009

"Not everyone needs to have a lawnmower that sits in the shed most of the time," says Janet Doner. "We can find ways to share assets and resources, and I'm interested in helping that happen through asset-mapping. That means identifying what people have and are willing to share and tracking where those assets are located."

She's also interested in building a sense of community. "I am interested in the intentional community movement and am part of Transition Guelph, an umbrella group that brings together various groups working towards finding meaningful, sustainable solutions to climate change and peak oil."

Doner is building community in other ways, too. One is through her "Books and Bites" book club, which brings members together once a month to discuss a book and share food that fits with its theme. Another group of friends gather Sundays at 6 p.m. for soup and bread.

In warm weather, she likes to go canoeing. Last summer, she did a five-week canoe trip on the Horton River and Arctic Ocean in the Northwest Territories. "We saw 11 grizzly bears, a beluga whale, caribou herds, seals, muskox and many amazing birds. It was an absolutely amazing experience."

This summer, she plans to head up to Lake Superior. Doner is also working on her master's degree in adult education and community development at OISE.



Janet Doner

ROSS MCKITTRICK

Faculty member in the Department of Economics since 1996

After studying piano for years, Prof. Ross McKittrick thought it would be fun to play the bagpipes.

"The instructor I contacted, Robin Aggus, suggested I try the Scottish smallpipes instead. They're a scaled-down indoor version of bagpipes."

Not long after the economist began playing the smallpipes, Aggus and his wife, Eva McCauley, founded Riverside Celtic College, and McKittrick became involved in helping to run it.

"We offer lessons in traditional Celtic instruments and Scottish and Irish music," he says.



Ross McKittrick

Game to Study Risk

Continued from page 1

contests and auctions, including those involving online sites such as eBay. He will use game theory tools to analyze regulations governing contests and competitions involving risk and uncertainty.

Most contests and auctions involve many people with differing and private preferences, abilities and outside options.

"Other contestants are left to guess about characteristics of others in the competitions," he says. "The co-existence of all these factors complicates any formal analysis, and, as a result, people's behaviour in such situations is poorly understood."

He adds that regulations are of-

ten intended to promote equity and fairness in auctions and contests.

"But if the interactions in contests and auctions are not well understood, predicting the effect of complicated regulations may be a difficult and error-prone undertaking."

In addition, a Tier 1 Chair in Global Environmental Change held by Prof. Barry Smít, Geography, was renewed for another seven years. Renewed for another five years were a Tier 2 Chair in Animal Welfare held by Prof. Georgia Mason, Animal and Poultry Science, and a Tier 2 Chair in Biophysics held by Prof. Vladimir Ladizhansky, Physics.

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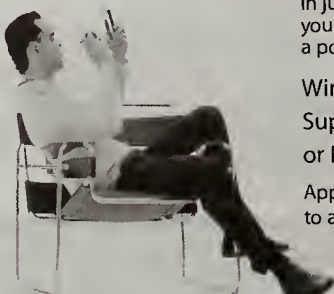
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Three-bedroom cottage on Miller Lake, large private lot with water access and dock, satellite TV, woodstove, large decks, \$650 a week for May to September, \$700 a week for July and August, photos at www.uoguelph.ca/~sgillies/cottage.

Furnished four-bedroom house in west end of Guelph, recently renovated, private yard, deck and barbecue, available June to August, \$1,800

a month inclusive, Jamie, 519-767-5469 or javander@uoguelph.ca.

Two-bedroom Tobermory cottage, plus bunkie sleeps two, available June to October, \$1,100 weekly for July and August, \$700 weekly for off-season, weekend rates available, visit <http://web.mac.com/jstewartguelph/Site/Welcome.html> or send email to jstobermory@me.com.

Partially furnished lower level of condo, shared front entrance, prefer mature female, non-smokers, no pets (must love dogs), available May 1, \$650 a month inclusive, elayne.starr@gmail.com.

Cottage in Southampton, two bedrooms, deck, barbecue, photos available, Melody, 519-836-6264 or melody.wren@sympatico.ca.

Furnished three-bedroom bungalow close to campus and downtown, suitable for post-graduate students,

faculty on sabbatical or young couple with children, non-smokers, available September 2010 to May 2011 (dates negotiable), \$1,700 a month inclusive, 519-837-2145 or arvimagnolia@yahoo.ca.

Furnished one-bedroom apartment in southwest Paris, France, short-term rental; two-bedroom holiday home in Antibes on French Riviera, weekly or monthly, 519-836-6745 or fmoll@rogers.com.

WANTED

Chemistry tutor for Grade 11 student, Craig, 519-362-4261.

House exchange, looking for cat-free home in Guelph for family with two young children for July 22 to 25 in exchange for large home outside North Bay, great location for exploring the outdoors, canoe available, Erin, epitkethly@yahoo.ca, subject line: house exchange.

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EVENTS

ARBORETUM

The Arboretum presents DuffelBag Theatre's production of *Rumpelstiltskin* April 29 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Call Ext. 52358.

Richard Tofflemire offers an introduction to birds April 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75. Registration and payment are required by April 15. For a complete list of Arboretum programs and workshops, visit www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum.

ART CENTRE

The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre hosts a free concert of original music and an eco-showcase by pianist Frank Hovart April 17 at 5 p.m.

The art centre will offer art camps for children aged seven to 11 in July and August. Registration must be done in person at the centre.

CONCERTS

The Thursday at Noon concert series presents student soloists April 8 at 12:10 p.m. in MacKinnon 107.

"Be the Change," a benefit concert to help build a school in Kenya, will be held April 9 in Peter Clark Hall. It will feature 10 bands from Guelph and area. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Prof. Marta McCarthy, Fine Art and Music, leads the U of G Choirs in their annual spring concert April 11 at 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church. The theme is "Force of Nature." Tickets are \$15 and \$10.

LECTURES

The ASTRA lecture series hosts Prof. John Cranfield, Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, discussing "Healthy, Wealthy and Tall(er): What Heights Tell Us About the Well-Being of Canadians" April 7 at 4 p.m. in MacKinnon 317.

Next up in the School of Languages and Literatures lecture series is GTA Jaime Brenes Reyes explaining "Cortázar's 'New Man' and the New Latin America" April 8 at 2:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 231.

Café Philosophique presents Prof. Stéphanie Nutting, Languages and Literatures, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Bookshelf Café. Her topic is "Sleuthing for the Truth: The Detective Genre and Quebec Identity."

NOTICES

The annual campus electrical shutdown for equipment inspection and servicing is slated for May 1 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. All campus buildings will be without regular power during the shutdown.

Steelworkers Local 4120 is calling for nominations for the Susanne Sprowl Community Service Award by April 30. For details, call Ext. 58911 or send email to admin@uswa4120.ca.

The Department of Philosophy holds a special all-day edition of its "Philosophy Goes Public" program April 10 starting at 9 a.m. in McLaughlin Library 384.

Singers or players interested in classic country music are invited to join Sunday evening music jams starting April 11. Contact Prof. Jerrard Smith at jerrard@uoguelph.ca.

The Guelph Tai Chi Club meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. on Johnston Green. The rain/cold location is MacKinnon 316. For more information, send email to nicholas@practicaltaichi.ca.

SEMINARS

The Department of Pathobiology seminar series continues April 9 with Prof. Ian Barker, director of the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, and April 30 with Otto Sanchez of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology's health sciences faculty. The seminars are at 11 a.m. in Pathobiology 2106.

Next up in the Department of Economics seminar series April 9 is Talan Iscan of Dalhousie University discussing "The Rise of the Service Employment." On April 16, the topic is "Testing for Threshold Effects in Regression" with Youngki Shin of the University of Western Ontario. The talks begin at 3:30 p.m. in MacKinnon 306.

"Functional DNA and Lipids for Biosensing, Drug Delivery and Nanotechnology" is the focus of Juewen Liu of the University of Waterloo April 15 in the Department of Chemistry seminar series. On April 22, Prof. Mark Baker discusses "Best-Kept Secrets of the Madelung Constant." The seminars begin at 10:45 a.m. in science complex 1511.

The Department of Molecular and

Cellular Biology seminar series presents Stephen Trent of the University of Texas at Austin considering "Lipopolysaccharide Modification Systems: Not Just for LPS" April 16 at 11 a.m. in science complex 1511.

Morag Park, scientific director of the CIHR Institute of Cancer Research, is guest speaker in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology's distinguished speaker series April 21. She will discuss "The Met RTK Internalization, Trafficking and Tumorigenesis." For time and location, send email to bmoroni@uoguelph.ca.

TEACHING SUPPORT

Details and registration for Teaching Support Services events can be found at www.tss.uoguelph.ca.

Registration is now open for the 23rd annual Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference, which runs May 11 in Rozanski Hall. For details, visit www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli.

In addition to regular Desire2Learn drop-in clinics Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m., TSS is offering special D2L grades clinics April 9, 16 and 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and April 20 and 27 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. All clinics are in McLaughlin Library 200-A. For instructors who will be running on-campus D2L course websites for the first time, TSS offers its "D2L Starter Kit" workshop May 4, 12 and 13.

TSS's eighth annual Course reDesign Institute runs May 17 to 21. It's geared to faculty who are either designing a new course or revitalizing a previous one. Enrolment is by application only. For details, call Mary Wilson at Ext. 56856.

THEATRE

U of G theatre studies students present "Adapt to This! A Festival of Audacious New Theatre" April 8 to 10 at the George Luscombe Theatre. The students will premiere six original plays in rotation over the three days. Performances run at 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$2 at the door for each program of two plays.

THESIS DEFENCES

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Noah Shapiro, Integrative Biology, is April 13 at 2 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Regulation of Membrane-Bound

Transport ATPases in Muscle of Fasting and Aestivating Lungfish (*Protopterus annectens*)." The adviser is Prof. Jim Ballantyne.

The final examination of Amanda Caskenette, an M.Sc. candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology, is April 14 at 2 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Effects of Grey Seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) on Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence." The advisers are Profs. Steve Crawford and Kevin McCann.

The final examination of PhD candidate Ravindra Ramnarine, Environmental Sciences, is April 15 at 9 a.m. in Richards 038. The thesis is "Soil Tillage Effects on the Contributions of Soil and Plant Carbon Pools to CO₂ Emissions Using ¹³C Natural Abundance." The adviser is Prof. Paul Voroney.

The final examination of M.Sc. candidate Christina Carr, Integrative Biology, is April 21 at 2 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "The Polychaeta of Canada: Exploring Diversity and Distribution Patterns Using DNA Barcodes." The adviser is Prof. Paul Hebert.

The final examination of Benjamin Sikes, a PhD candidate in the Department of Integrative Biology, is April 27 at 9 a.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Function Differences of Arbuscular Mycorrhizas: Causes and Consequences." The advisers are Profs. John Klironomos and Hafiz Maherali.

The final examination of PhD candidate Darrell Cockburn, Molecular and Cellular Biology, is April 28 at 9 a.m. in science complex 2315. The thesis is "Modulation of the pH-Activity Profile of the Endoglucanase CnA From *Cellulomonas fimi* Through Rational Design and Chemical Modification." The adviser is Prof. Anthony Clarke.

The final examination of PhD candidate Melissa Wells, Psychology, is April 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Rozanski 106. The thesis is "Bidirectional Processes: Can a Broader Perspective Aid in Understanding Unintentional Injuries for School-Age Children?" The adviser is Prof. Barbara Morrongiello.

The final examination of Ashraf Al Zaghaf, a PhD candidate in the School of Engineering, is April 30 at 1 p.m. in science complex 1504. The

thesis is "Ecological Streamflows With Geomorphic Functions." The adviser is Prof. Andrea Bradford.

The final examination of PhD candidate Kevin Kerr, Integrative Biology, is April 30 at 2 p.m. in science complex 3317. The thesis is "Exploring the Efficacy, Utility and Limitations of DNA Barcoding Within the Class Aves." The advisers are Prof. Paul Hebert and Allan Baker of the Royal Ontario Museum.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The 2010 Red Ribbon Gala, a fundraiser for the AIDS Committee of Guelph, the Bracelet of Hope campaign and the Masai Centre for Local, Regional and Global Health, is May 29 at the Delta Hotel and Conference Centre. For ticket information, call 519-780-5298, Ext. 153.

Phil Fontaine, former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, will discuss "Our Environment, Our Water, Our Land" April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Church. For tickets, call 519-822-1366.

The Edward Johnson Music Foundation is calling for applications by June 10 for its 2010 scholarship and awards program. For details, call 519-821-7570 or visit www.edwardjohnsonmusicfoundation.org.

The Guelph Symphony Orchestra performs "Masterworks and More" April 11 at 3 p.m. at the River Run Centre.

Dublin Street United Church's annual fine art show and sale runs April 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On April 18, the church presents "The Music of Friends" at 3 p.m.

Gerald Neufeld conducts the Guelph Chamber Choir in a performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* May 1 at 8 p.m. at Church of Our Lady. Call 519-763-3000 for tickets.

KidsAbility holds its annual fun run/walk June 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at the West End Community Centre. For details, visit www.kidsability.ca.

The Guelph Legion hosts a Neil Diamond tribute dinner and show April 23. Visit www.guelphlegion.ca for details.

The Guelph-Wellington branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario holds its AGM April 21 at 7 p.m. at 10 Carden St.

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